

CIGARETTE PAPERS

By JOSEPH HATTON.

The New Year.

Before we sit down again at this round table to chat and mope over a cigarette, "the glad New Year will have come into his heritage. All the world over the new monarch will have been hailed: "The King is dead, long live the King!" For the moment his youthful Majesty will sit on a bright new throne, everything clean and pure about him. But while he looks around upon his great estate the clouds will gather, the breath of scandal will taint the air, the muddy splash of trade will pollute his streets, the sweat of printer's ink will besmirch his new robes, and the same old world will go trundling down the same old grooves, but with another date upon the margin—1902! The cry of the hungry and the sigh of death will mingle with the music of the festival and the rhythmic play of the dancers. The struggle for life among the poor, the struggle for fame in the professions, the struggle for titles and empty honours among the rich, the struggle for power that exasperates political parties—the same old game will mar the story of the year "that is dying in the night," and of which, in the immortal language of Tennyson, we ungratefully exclaim, "Ring out wild bells and let him die!"

The Prayer of Every True Briton.

For the sake of the children who are as yet unconscious of the pathos of empty chairs at the festive board; for the sake of the young man and maiden for whom the mistletoe has no shadow of the cypress; and out of regard even for the memory of dear ones passed away, who would not have the world the sadder for their absence, it behoves every one of us to keep the brighter side of the medal uppermost. It is hard, God knows, to overlook those empty chairs "while the merry song goes round" and there is dancing in the hall; but when the feast is at an end and the last guest has departed you sit by your fire and conjure up the names of the days of your youth, and, "you may be with tears, but not without a chancing great-tide, acknowledge that it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." Your own private sorrows will emphasise your sympathy with the widow and the orphan of the dear ones who have laid down their lives for the honour, the safety, and the glory of the Empire whose sons they were, and in whose historic page they will live among the heroes who have made the nation great. It is the prayer of every true Briton and of every man who is ambitious for the progress of civilisation that the New Year will see the dawn of a lasting and glorious peace in South Africa, and a new State firmly bound up in that splendid Confederation of English-speaking peoples and their fellow-subjects of other nationalities, which is the chief hope of those who dream of a millennium of peace and prosperity for the world at large.

Talk with a Dutchman.

The other night I met at dinner a distinguished Hollander. He was very indignant at what he called the shameful scandals in the Press in regard to the domestic life of the Queen of Holland and her Consort. "There is not a word of truth in it! I assure you, and I speak with knowledge and authority." As the reports of trouble had been in circulation long before they found their way into the English newspapers, I asked him what their origin could be. "Nothing but a malicious desire to damage monarchical institutions, foisted and exploited by the Socialists." I asked him if he regarded them as alone to blame for the pernicious reports. "They alone are the authors; not—much the few agitators we have in Holland, but the Belgian faction." "Since you are so irritated at reports which, after all, do not affect the national honour, and only concern the domestic affairs of the Court, cannot you understand?" I asked him, "the indignation of the English people at the brutal libels concocted against us by the canard pionneers of both Belgium and Holland?" He hesitated, but replied that the Government of Holland had no hand in maligning us. "You think we are malignant?" "To some extent. But not by Holland than by your own people, if we are to believe the statements of your leading newspapers." "Anyhow, don't you think Mr. Kruger and the other voluntary exiles who find favour in the eyes of Holland are criminally to blame for not stopping the war?" "No," he said, reddening, "and if I were a Boer I would fight on to the last." "You would not give in now for the sake of your wife and family?" "I would not," he said. "But do you think the Boers are going to win, as some of them are supposed to still believe they will in the end?" "I do not," he said; "but I would never give in for all that."

The Will but not the Deed.

My Dutch friend, I fear, was quite willing to believe the slanders of Brussels, though he wanted the blood of the alleged slanders of Queen Wilhelmina and her Consort. There was another Dutch gentleman present on this occasion, largely interested in the continental shipping trade. He was a pronounced pro-Boer. The Englishman present had with myself enjoyed his hospitality before the war, and knew him to be the soul of honour. He spoke of the effort made to boycott British shipping, and acknowledged that it was a scheme of the Leyds' lot, and had the support of some Germans, Dutch, Belgians, and Frenchmen of an insignificant position; but, of course, more particularly of dockhands and needy workmen, the leaders of whom were probably subservient by Leyds and Co., though he repudiated the idea that Mr. Kruger had more money left than was necessary for himself and his immediate entourage. "Several deputations waited upon me," he said, "and the idea I can assure you was very seriously entertained." "Just as it was in the days of Napoleon," said one of the Englishmen present, "backed by all Europe." "And at which time," rejoined another English guest, "Napoleon claimed to be one of his marshals, if not in these words to this effect, 'Don't talk to me of victories on land, when I cannot send a cockle-boat to sea that it is not captured by the English!'" The Dutchman smiled and replied, "I did not tell them your story, but I explained that in case they succeeded in boycotting British shipping, Holland, Belgium, France,

and Germany, and particularly the industries represented by their deputations, would be the chief sufferers, and, furthermore, that I did not think we could succeed if we tried." "But we will, there," I suggested.

"Yes, I'm afraid it was," he said, honestly enough; and his confession strikes the keynote to the one great duty before us of being prepared for every emergency, "for we know not what a day may bring forth."

My German Friend.

At that same little dinner there was a German present. It is not the first time I have quoted him in regard to that unnatural hatred of us by foreigners to which Lord Rosebery referred the other day at Chesterfield. The official repeated his demand for the fare, and Mark Twain went on amusing himself for some time paying the 10 farthing fare, and promptly destroying the ticket. Then he went to his hotel and wrote an article on the incident, for which he was paid £100. Quite in the Falstaff vein, "I will turn to the open air; avoid stimulants. As an expert take one or two compound sulphur baths night and morning, as may be necessary."

SAVAGE.—"Appreciate each night a small quantity of this water. Hydrogen carbonates, 15 grains; 10 carbolic detergent, 1 drachm; camphor, 1 drachm; oil of camphor, 1 drachm; oil of eucalyptus, of each equal parts. Take 1 drachm of this every night and morning, and twice a day after food. Live much in the open air; avoid stimulants. As an expert take one or two compound sulphur baths night and morning, as may be necessary."

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE CONDUCTOR.



THE English celebration of Christmas is essentially a feast in the good old acceptance of the term. We gather our family and friends about us and eat and drink and indulge in games and romps and dancing. The board-head and the spiced bowl are national emblems of the time. Over the latter feuds are forgotten, and the sentiment of family unity and affection emphasis in toast and song. The poor were always looked after at Christmas-time in town and country. To-day they must be hidden away from neighbourly ken who do not experience something of the bounty of the season. Christmas was not always the children's festival which it has become during the past century. We owe the Christmas tree to Germany, and Santa Claus is not an English invention. "Father Christmas," however, with his burden of good things, belongs to the British fancy; though hanging up the stocking for Santa Claus is, perhaps, the prettier idea.

Nothing could have been more unlike the traditional Christmas weather than that which this year ushered in the gracious season. "A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard" is nevertheless a questionable proverb like many another of the supposed concentrations of human wisdom. Cold snaps of winter are responsible for many deaths, certainly among the aged and the poor.

The shadow of the railway disaster at Liverpool falls upon the festival, and the greater shadow of the war has for many made the bells "jangly out of tune and harsh," and mixed cypress with the holly, and craze with the ribbons that decorate "the mistletoe-bough." Our brave fellows at the front, fighting for the Empire and the honour of the British name, have not been forgotten either in our prayers or our gifts. Their detractors of our own blood and the vile politicians, who, to serve their own base ends, have done much to extend the war, are examples of degeneracy that make one all the more grateful for the splendid and overwhelming tokens of national virility on the other side. There are more signs of peace in the desperate fighting of the past few weeks than in the alleged diplomatic movements on the continent.

Spites of enemies at home, spies, libellers, and subsidized newspapers, paid to circulate slanders against our soldiers and lying reports of Boer victories; conspiracies against us among professed European friends, and recruits for the enemy and supplies smuggled to their aid, we have pushed on with the same dogged persistence that has left its mark on every page of the world's history. In due course we shall bring the struggle to an end. The finish is nearer than many wise people imagine. When it comes we shall be the stronger and the better prepared for the great war that is always in the air, or on the eve of its first gun, according to the prophets of evil and the ever-groaning press.

The joys of Christmas in England are to be found in the home. The yule log is on the fire, the holly and the mistletoe decorate the house, the "kissing bush" hangs in the hall. There is snapdragon and blind man's buff, and the "small and early" dancer, in the big house, the fancy ball, and everywhere now-a-days the Christmas tree. This is the story of both city and suburb of town and country. On the other hand, our Continental neighbours have their out-of-doors celebrations. Christmas Eve in Paris is a gay and picturesque time. The boulevards are for the nonce turned into street-bazaars, and crowds of happy purchasers of toys for the children and presents for friends exchange pleasant greetings. Cafés and restaurants provide special attractions in the way of refreshment, and all night long the people enjoy the freedom of the time, and, as a looker-on, you may well envy their light-heartedness and the ease with which they make a complete enjoyment out of simple things.

Much the same may be said of some other peoples, the Germans, the Danish, the Swedes, and the Italians, though the Northern nations make more of a home and children's festival of Christmas than our friends the Latins. If only the religious sentiment of peace and goodwill could be so universally maintained that the rivalry of nations would lie simply in the competition of Art and Commerce and the higher virtues! But that would mean the Millennium of the religious hope and the poet's dream, and the signs are all the other way at present. In the meantime, be it in war or peace, "The Conductor" wishes his readers all possible happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

PIPER PAN.

Considerable interest is felt in the musical world concerning the experiment being made by the Incorporated Society of Musicians for the purpose of encouraging young and obscure composers by giving performances of their works without expense to themselves. Since the idea was suggested at the society's conference last year seventy-eight compositions have been submitted to the committee appointed, and seven of these will be rendered by a first-class orchestra at the forthcoming conference in London. The concert will take place on Dec. 31 at the Hotel Cecil, when over 500 representative musicians will be present. This new movement ought to silence the cry that British musicians cannot get their works performed unless they have already won celebrity, or can afford the cost of production.

On Sunday afternoon the first of the annual Christmas carol services took

place at the Foundling Hospital. It is a pretty sight to see the children in their quaint uniforms, and the charm of their fresh young voices is altogether delightful. Thirteen carols were sung, the composers being Stainer, Sullivan, Barnby, Bridge, Foster, Field, Adams, and H. D. V. Wren. The chapel organist, Gounod's, anthem, "Bethlehem," closed the service. The choir and children will also render carols on Sunday afternoons, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5, and I would advise those of my readers who have never attended one of these services to avail themselves of the opportunities.

Concert managers are to lose the services of Miss Lilian Elsie, who goes to Daly's Theatre for the new play, but Miss Alice Nielsen, of light opera fame here and in America, has decided to take up concert work, so that things are about balanced. Miss Elsie, who is a brilliant vocalist, will, I presume, be fitted with a part of the kind formerly associated with Miss Marie Tempest. Miss Nielsen has signed a one year's contract with Mr. Newman, of Queen's Hall, to sing at the symphony orchestra concert. She makes her first appearance in her new capacity on Feb. 11.

A fund to aid the late Col. Mapleton's widow has been started under the care of Messrs. Chappell, New Bond-st., who will be glad to receive subscriptions. Impresarios do not always succeed in securing competence for themselves, although the artists they have brought out frequently achieve wealth. But Col. Mapleton did so much for music and was such a genial good fellow that I have little doubt of assistance being given to his widow, who is not only poor, but almost blind.

An absurd exaggeration has been made of Madame Calv's illness in one of the American papers, which stated that the celebrated prima donna was suffering from cancer of the throat. As a matter of fact, singing while affected with a bad cold brought on severe hoarseness and temporary loss of voice, but after a short rest Madame Calv is expected to appear in "Messaline" with M. Alvaro in New York this week.

Dr. Joseph Bridge, for the first time, departed from the usual routine on Monday week, when he conducted the last subscription concert of the Chester Musical Society. The London Wind Quintet, introduced as an experiment at a concert also provided with an orchestra and choir of 150 performers, won such complete success, however, as to amply justify the innovation made by Dr. Bridge. The artistic and novel combination, comprising flute, oboe, horn, bassoon, and clarinet, makes a delightful variety in chamber music performance.

The music for Mr. Louis Parker's "Twin Sisters," which will be produced on Wednesday at the Duke of York's Theatre, is from the gifted pen of Madame Liza Lehmann.

M. Paderewski gave a recital at Sheffield a few days after the Arthur Chappell concert, and has now returned to the Continent.

On Tuesday next the subscription list of the Sir Arthur Sullivan Memorial Fund will be closed. Up to that date donations will be gratefully received at Lloyd's Bank, Strand.

WILL WORKMAN.

There is an old story of a gentleman who invited a friend to dine with him at a fashionable restaurant. When it was all over, he said, "Now, then, don't you call that a good dinner?" "First rate," said his friend; "let us have another one." And that is something like the Workmen's Compensation Act passed in 1897. It was a first-rate Act, let me have another one. Time back it was the custom at Christmas time for a family or a party to sit round the fire and ask "riddles or conundrums," and people used to study "riddle books" so as to be able to put powers to their friends.

But the "Compensation Act" beats all the "conundrums or riddle books" that ever were printed. Here are a few of the puzzles that have been tried during the last month, decided by a County Court judge, and then taken to a Court of Appeal: "What is an accident?" "What is meant by 'arising out of' and in the course of employment?" "When does a man cease to be a workman, and become a contractor?" What is "serious and wilful misconduct?" What is a "factory, dock, wharf, or warehouse?" What is "a mine?" What is "a scaffolding?" When does "a building exceed 30ft. in height?" and I will give the last conundrum in full, as a specimen of the rest.

A workman who had accidentally injured himself while employed in the construction of a building claimed compensation from his employers, who refused to pay on the grounds that the building did not come under the Act, as it was under 30ft. in height. From the bottom of the footings above the concrete foundations to the top of the building was 33ft. 2in., from the top of the footings to the top of the building 33ft. 2in., from the basement floor to the top of the building 23ft. 10in., and from the level of the street to the top of the building 23ft. 5in. Now, what was the height of the building? As Mr. J. Wilson, M.P., said at the time, it was "a most generous measure," and all we want is another little Act just to make clear what the last one means—a sort of explanatory Act.

Here is another riddle that I want someone to answer. It has nothing to do with the "Compensation Act," but it has a lot to do with working men—especially those who live round about here. How is it that on an average twice as many people die proportionately in St. George's, Southwark, as in St. George's, Hanover-square? There must be some cause for it; and it seems to me that the medical officer of health for London, who, in his annual report, tells us this, is the man who ought to find out the cause, and when he has found out the cause provide a remedy.

This has been a record shipbuilding year. The British tonnage launched this year exceeds in extent, variety, and value any previous year in the history of ship-building. Every one of the north-eastern ports show an increase over last year, and together they head the list, with 950,000 tons. The Clyde district tonnage was 530,000. Other ports bring up the grand total,

to 1,730,000 tons; and yet shipbuilding is one of the trades that the "croakers and cranks" have been telling us is leaving the country.

What is likely to leave the country is our transhipping trade. Almost all the German buyers now send direct to Australia for wool, rather than buy it after it has been brought to London; and this time, at any rate, they cannot throw the blame on the docks. It is not strike that have done it; it is high prices, and delays in loading and unloading at the docks, and the rise in dock rates for London of 1s. 6d. a ton, beginning with the New Year, will make it worse than ever.

Concert managers are to lose the services of Miss Lilian Elsie, who goes to Daly's Theatre for the new play, but Miss Alice Nielsen, of light opera fame here and in America, has decided to take up concert work, so that things are about balanced. Miss Elsie, who is a brilliant vocalist, will, I presume, be fitted with a part of the kind formerly associated with Miss Marie Tempest. Miss Nielsen has signed a one year's contract with Mr. Newman, of Queen's Hall, to sing at the symphony orchestra concert. She makes her first appearance in her new capacity on Feb. 11.

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OLD IZAK.

The first year of the century has scarcely justified the hopes of anglers, who, from one cause or another, have found fishing indifferent throughout. The trout and salmon anglers, equally with the coarse fishermen, and the sea anglers at Deal, have all been somewhat disappointed; yet, as surely as bad times occasionally happen, so good ones must be looked for in their turn. Let us hope that 1902 will be numbered among the latter, and the Coronation year bring us better luck all round.

Present conditions are certainly encouraging, and anglers may reasonably anticipate exceptional sport among the pike and perch, unless any unexpected change of weather occurs. During the last few days some good pike have been caught in the Thames, particularly in the upper reaches, and one of 19lb. is reported from the neighbourhood of Reading. Perch have also been on the feed, and fish up to 2lb. weight have been landed. The tidal water has yielded some nice roach, where there are plenty of them awaiting the rod of the skillful angler.

The rivers and brooks of the eastern counties are now in excellent trim, and offer every chance of sport to the angler. Barton Broad, famous for its bream, pike and perch, has fished well; a pike of 18lb. being among the fish lately landed. At St. Ives and St. Neots, the Great Ouse is in capital order, and the Lett roach is once more in evidence on Walton's river. It is said "All's well that ends well," and anglers all hope that the end of 1901 may justify the proverb.

A pike scaling 13lb. 5oz. was caught a few days since by Mr. W. Ackland, treasurer of the Southampton Piscatorial Society. It was 47in. long, and in the pike of condition.

Sea fishing has not been brisk anywhere of late, owing to wind and weather, but the number of anglers to be met with when conditions favour the more suitable pier heads (not to mention those who fish from boats) shows that its popularity as a sport steadily increases. Paternoster tackle, such as used in pike or perch fishing, is by far the best for all round sea angling, taking care that the lead is just heavy enough to rest well on the bottom. The hooks may be of different sizes, and "John Hickerdick" recommends the use of four or five hooks and a variety of baits when fishing strange water, which in all probability will soon enable the angler to see what fish are to be caught, and the best bait to use. On feeling a bite, strike sharply, and keep a tight line. Let the tackle be as fine as consistent with safety, for the finest tackle usually secures the best fish.

With great regret I hear of the sudden death of Mr. Tom Wood, one of the founders of the Ogleander Piscatorial Society, and whose memory will long be held in esteem by members and friends. He was buried at Forest Hill on Saturday last. Among the more prominent working club anglers who have been lost to us during the year the names of Mr. R. Gurney, and Mr. W. R. Lawes will long be respectfully remembered, and their genial presence be missed at many a gathering of anglers. The Benevolent Society had no finer friends.

The New Grange Angling Society, meeting at the Queen's Head, Fendall-st., Grange-rd., S.E., are to have a visit on Tuesday, Jan. 7. This being their "house warmer" a large company may be expected to assemble, and Mr. A. G. Smith, their energetic secretary, promises all brothers of the angle a hearty welcome.

London angling societies, of which the True Waltons, the Walton and Cotton Piscatorial Society, and Friendly Anglers are among the oldest and best, came into existence in the early part of the last century, steadily increasing by others, nearly all of which survive. In 1902 the Gresham (the foremost society of recent years) celebrates its 21st anniversary, and if I mistake not, the West London Angling Club does the same.

The Anglers' Benevolent Society (founded in 1878) now receives the support of a very large number of anglers, who must be members of clubs, and pay a small annual contribution, and their funds are deservedly increased by donations from individuals, as well as by collections at angling meetings and by like. Such an institution fosters a feeling of brotherhood among anglers and let us hope will long flourish.

The protection and preservation of the Thames fishery between Isleworth and Staines (vested in the Corporation of London) was first undertaken by a number of gentlemen in 1858, who formed the Thames Angling Preservation Society in that year. Its work is entirely voluntary, and with the exception of the late Mr. W. H. Brougham, none of its officers except keepers have ever accepted any payment. Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, J.P., L.C.C., is now its president, and Mr. H. W. H. Hargreaves, hon. secy.

The protection and preservation of

societies, especially by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, during past years in keeping a good head of fish in the river, and all deserve every encouragement that can be given them.

I cannot let the year close without warmly thanking my many correspondents for information so kindly forwarded from far and near, which has enabled me to chronicle the chief doings of anglers everywhere, and materially aided my endeavour to make the "Old Izaak" column of "The People" worthy of its name. To each and all let me wish tight lines and prosperous seasons for many years to come, and may "The People" always dislike it, and juveniles fail to grasp it.

People often wonder that managers do not make more and greater efforts to render their "bills of the play" readable as well as useful. Long waits are quite common in London theatres, and the ladies especially (who naturally do not go out to "see a man") would be glad of anything by which to while away the time. Mr. Henderson, of Fulham, has at least given them with their programme something to look at. He has arranged for each programme to be accompanied by an excellent portrait of some "footlight favourite"—so presented that it can, if the possessor likes, be framed. This is an excellent idea, and may lead to more.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

I have been asked if hedgehogs make nice pets, and in reply must say that, in my opinion they do, and were it not for their prickly coats they would be much more appreciated than they now are. Being nocturnal in their habits, they appear to be slow and inactive animals when examined in daylight, when, as a rule, they remain curled up, with their legs and faces hidden; but at night they are very alert, and display a great amount of activity in their search for food. Hedgehogs are very useful in ridding houses and gardens of insect pests, and they are often employed to combat the hordes of cockroaches and crickets that invade hot-houses and bakeries. In the matter of food the animals are not particular, and every piece, from an insect or worm to a piece of raw beef or mutton, is equally relished. Eggs and young birds or mice seem to be particularly palatable to them.

A correspondent of Chelcot-crescent, N.W., writes me that during the past season, his hens, consisting of a stock of eight (he does not mention the variety), kept in a London "back-yard," have laid no less than 1,070 eggs—i.e., at the rate of about 134 a-piece. This, no doubt, is an excellent production, and it is not often that fowls kept in such a place exceed this number, but, apparently, as every other poultry farmer ought, he carefully attends to the requirements of the birds, and what he cannot supply in the way of runs, etc., in a natural way, he provides artificially. To obtain eggs from fowls they must be well supplied with materials with which to form them. They should be liberally supplied with food, but this should not be too fattening, and they should be fed regularly about twice a day, and with their food should be scattered bone-dust and crushed oyster-shells. Green stuff should also be plentifully provided. In my opinion, the black Minorcas, Orpingtons, or Plymouth Rocks are the best breeds for laying.

The most recent additions to the Zoological Gardens include a crimson-breasted herbet, a variegated sheldrake, a Vervet monkey, a Gangetic triton, and 15 tigrine frogs.

Being holiday time, many of my readers will probably pay a visit to the Zoological Gardens. Lists of the additions that have been made to the society's collection have been given weekly, as above, in this column, and the animals mentioned therein will perhaps be looked for by visitors to the Zoo. It is needless to say that all of them will not be found, as some of them have died since the lists were published. Those, however, that are alive, and are of special interest, rest and well worthy of a visit, are the Rocky Mountain goat (the first example ever exhibited in London), the Grant's and Grivé's zebras (deposited by H. M. the King), the teneb and young lions (in the Apes' House), the small elephant, the young camel, and the crab-eating opossum with its nine young ones, as well as various other pretty little animals in the small mammal house.

I have received the following letter from a correspondent of Southport:— "I read with great interest your note on a chameleon having 11 little ones, and you will perhaps be interested to hear that I have a chameleon, brought to me from South Africa, which three days after its arrival gave birth to 22 young ones, 18 of which lived until the beginning of last week, when, to my great disappointment, three of them died. Can you give me any hint as to keeping them, as it is hard to find insects at this time of year? We manage to find only an occasional fly for the mother."

As I stated in the note referred to by my correspondent, the number of young chameleons at a birth rarely exceeds 11, and 22, as he informs us, were produced by his specimen, must be considered a very extraordinary number. Flies and other winged insects form the exclusive food of chameleons, but these are naturally difficult to procure in the winter months. The reptiles are, however, very partial to meal-worms, and these being easy to breed all the year round, the chameleons need never go short of meal. They do not hibernate like lizards; they should therefore be kept very warm.

It is easy to breed meal-worms, but some of my readers may not know the way. All that is needed is a large tin biscuit-box, which should be filled with meal, bran, pieces of sacking, and crusts of bread. Amongst these should be placed a good stock of the meal-worm beetles, which should be left for a time to allow the former to progress with their metamorphosis, and the latter to lay eggs. The worms for use should be taken from those that are hatched from the eggs, and if too great a number of them is not required, it will be found that by always having his machine fitted with tandem tyres, but that he doubted if these were as thick as those of, say, 10 years ago, and he was thinking seriously of having his new mount fitted with motor bicycle tyres. Of course, no one wants heavy, clumsy tyres, but I think most would prefer heavier ones than to run everlasting risks of puncture.

Mr. Masham, a cycle manufacturer of some 25 years' standing, has been writing to the Press a very sensible letter upon the subject of "feather-weight" cycles. He points out that it is not sufficient in order to make a light bicycle that a few pounds should be taken off an old type of machine by reducing the weight of the frame and accessories. He maintains, and has common sense on his side, that to get lightness with reliability requires an entirely redesigning of the machine with this idea always in the designer's mind, and that only when this is done will featherweight cycles be popular and reliable.

The production at the Avenue of a piece founded on "Gulliver's Travels" has drawn attention to the rarity

with which that subject has been chosen for the purpose of Christmas extravagance. The story cannot be said to have ever been popular upon the boards. The fact is, there is nothing dramatic about it, and there are no particularly picturesque about it. Moreover, it is little known, I believe, that if a picnicker were instituted it would be discovered that very few living English people have ever read Swift's satire from beginning to end. The satire is so savage that adults dislike it, and juveniles fail to grasp it.

People often wonder that managers do not make more and greater efforts to render their "bills of the play" readable as well as useful. Long waits are quite common in London theatres, and the ladies especially (who naturally do not go out to "see a man") would be glad of anything by which to while away the time. Mr. Henderson, of Fulham, has at least given them with their programme something to look at. He has arranged for each programme to be accompanied by an excellent portrait of some "footlight favourite"—so presented that it can, if the possessor likes, be framed. This is an excellent idea, and may lead to more.

We are getting within measurable distance of the production of "Frocks and Frills," the comedy which Mr. Grundy has adapted from a French source ("Les Dents de la Vie"), they say, and concerning which there has already been a great deal of agreeable reclame. Dress-making figures (we are told) prominently feature in the play, and so there has been much talk about other comedies which have had the same subject for their basis. Curiously enough, I have not seen anywhere any reference to a piece called "Cerise and Co." which was brought out at a matinee some few years ago, and which certainly had a fashionable modesty as a leading character.</p

JACK ALLROUND.

small bridal flowers, are to wear to dress green cloth. Skirts and Louis Quince dresses of grey-green brocade with a border of brocade. Frills of lace in front of the waist over the hands.

hats of Reedie felt with a band of rose, and full roses old-rose satin. Tall grey tops are to be decorated with a posy and grey-green ribbon.

travelling gown is a home-made costume of both. The coat has a blue panne, and a cloth belt is gathered in a flounce. A long double-breasted, with plumed this dainty coat.

ORDER FORM.

"People" Office, and mark

Measurements:

Waist, 30 in.
Hips, 36 in.
Shoulder, 16 in.
Bust, 34 in.
Waist, front, 26 in.
Waist, back, 28 in.

Waist, back, 28 in.

Waist, 30 in.

DRAMA AND MUSIC.

DRURY LANE.
"BLUE BEARD."

Christmas is for the young. No stronger proof of the truism can be found than the aspect on Boxing Night of the great playhouse of old Drury, which fitly, by time-honoured prescription, has come to be recognised as our national theatre.

Faithful to the tradition of his former chief, Sir Augustus Harris, Mr. Arthur Collins, for his present Yuletide annual, once more addresses his appeal direct to the young, and, in sympathy with them, to children of larger growth—so, for choice of subject he selects the time-honoured classic of the nursery, "Blue Beard," written anew by himself, with Mr. J. Hickory Wood. In their wish to be original, the collaborators have, however, so far deviated from the lines of the main story as to render it questionable whether youthful visitors can readily recognise their old familiar acquaintances, under the disguises in which they appear in the newest pantomime version. Take, for instance, Blue Beard himself. Instead of the creepy romance of the terrible Turk, as a sort of legendary Henry VIII., with his wives already wizened, strung up, and hidden away in a secret cupboard when first heard of, we get the everyday reality in the person of the modern Mr. Herbert Campbell as the Bashaw of various ladies of the bazaar, all living, albeit sheltered in favour of an equal number of younger and fairer hours, drawn from the slave market. The only further reminder in the action of the original story is seen in the revelation, by means of the much-married monster's skeleton key, entrusted by him to Fatima, of the heads of his decapitated victims—brought to the light, still living—displayed as masks upon a screen in the un-lock'd cupboard, whence they evidently end.

SISTER ANNE.
(Mrs. Dan Leno).

of life by one to manner born, Mr. Arthur Conquest, Miss Ravenberg, as Señor, and Miss Julia Franks, as Fatima, made a pret' pair of singing and dancing youthful lovers, without which no modern pantomime would be complete; and Madame Grigolati, with her troupe, once again appeared floating in mid-air. Of the topical song, Mr. Dan Leno's variant of the old ditty, "Daisy," with its grotesque dance to follow, most tickled the audience, and Mr. Glover's music was tuneful and enlivening.

It was midnight before the curtain finally fell, which means that the action must be reduced under hydraulic pressure if necessary, by at least an hour. The excisions may best be made in the last of the three scenes.

ST. JAMES'S.
"LIBERTY HALL" AND "THE WILDERNESS."

Mr. George Alexander returned with his company to his own stage on Boxing Day, presenting as his Christmas programme "Liberty Hall" in the afternoon and "The Wilderness" at night. Novelties of some importance are seen in the present cast of Mr. Carton's comedy. Mr. Lennox Pounds, who enacts with sincerity of quiet humour and pathos the part of the simple old secondhand bookseller, Todman, formerly impersonated by the late Edward Righton. Mr. Lyall Sweeten portrays the vulgar meanness of Brinsford powerfully, but without extravagance, while Miss Margaret Hallstan and Miss Lillian Brighthwaite severally act with sympathetic effect the characters of the elder and younger sisters, identified originally with Miss Marion Terry and Miss Maude Millett. Miss Eva Moore is now the heroine of "The Wilderness," enacted with her wonted charm and interesting grace of delineation.

AVENUE.
"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS."

To compress all the delightful stuff of "Gulliver's Travels" into two acts is obviously an impossible task, but Mr. G. Grossmith, jun., intending his Christmas entertainment to appeal to the children, has tried to do no such thing. He has taken in some of the main incidents of Lilliput and Brobdingnag, and has put them together in a "fashion most diverting," while Mr. Augustus Bartratt has given musical illustration to these episodes from Swift's immortal work with taste and judgment marking in admirable manner the difference between the tiny folk on the one hand and the giants on the other.

For ourselves we prefer his big folk stuff, but give our vote for the tiny folk scenes. Really the ways of the stage child are most wonderful. They are so pleasingly natural, and we must mention them all by name. Miss May Cranfield who, as Olga, sings with an affected charm, Miss Lucie Woods and Miss Gladys Makeham, and Master Archie Watson, alertest and most intelligent of little fellows. Then the Dutch doll, showing her wooden body and her jointless legs, is impersonated with abundant cleverness by Miss Jessica Black, and brownies, wooden soldiers, chickens, ducks, etc., all do their work splendidly. We must not forget the pater and mater of Mr. Luigi Lablache and Miss Jessie Moore, nor the servant of Miss Minnie Griffin. As we have said, "Katawampus" is delightful; everyone must go to see it, the children especially.

FULHAM.
"SINBAD THE SAILOR."

Given a familiar story, pretty faces, attractive songs and dances, plenty of innocent fooling and elaborate scenery a Christmas entertainment is almost sure of success. All these essentials Mr. Henderson has liberally showered on "Sinbad the Sailor," chosen for his fifth annual pantomime at Fulham. The librettist, Mr. Hickory Wood, has treated the well-known tale with simplicity, making as few digressions from the original story as is possible in an up-to-date pantomime. The cast is one of general all-round excellency, from the daring Sinbad, played with all traditional dash by Miss Olive Marston, to the all-important "Old Man of the Sea," who is realistically portrayed by Mr. T. S. Macfarlane. Miss Marston acts brightly, and not only sings sympathetically but dances extremely well. Her "Lonesome Coon" song and the dance which follows will doubtless become the most popular number in the pantomime. Very kindly in Miss Venie Clements as Bodoura; she sings and dances prettily, and is all that a principal girl should be. Miss Ruby Hallier and Miss Amy Gourlay are both excellent, the former as a coloured Princess and the latter in the somewhat small part of Zoe. What would the modern pantomime be without its funny knock-about men? They are inevitable, and the Brothers Ongs as two sailors, one fat and one thin, are funny in their own particular way. Mr. Charles Gardner and Mr. William Gourlay's portrayal of that kind of love unrequited which robs you of your rest was tragically funny.

Then we come to the land of the big men for the second act, and for Gulliver we now have another clever youngster, Master Roy Lorraine, who in his encounters with the mammoth rats, and his interviews with the giants of Brobdingnag, was equally diverting. Perhaps his scenes with Glumdaclitch, the farmer's daughter, who makes such violent love to the little man, provoked most laughter. His attempt to undress him and put him into his doll's cradle and his protesting that he is an elderly man with a large family did not fail of their effect. Miss Fanny Dango, who plays the farmer's daughter, is as graceful in movement as she is charming in song. Her success was complete, and bouquets were showered in tribute. The "pas de deux" by Miss Maudie Pittendrigh was one of the most acceptable features of the entertainment, but another interpolation, the trio, "One, Two, Three," might well go by the board. It smacks rather too much of the variety stage.

KENNINGTON.
"SWEET RED RIDING HOOD."

Although for the purposes of Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime, the old familiar fairy story, is served up under the altered title of "Sweet Red Riding Hood," there is no alteration in the incidents so beloved of children as written by Mr. Walter Summers, and certainly no reason can be assigned from the point of view of the exponent of the rule, for Little Dolly Hayward is of very tender years. At the same time, she scores a remarkable success, and is closely followed by Little Maudie Franks, Baby Haudie, and Little Ruby Butt as Pollio Flinders, Margery Daw, and Johnny Horner respectively, although the other little scholars of a causious quartet of uncertain age—Rupert of Hentzau as played by Little Britton. No pains have been spared in making the production attractive and bright, and acceptable alike to young and old. The scenery is from first to last exceedingly tasteful, while Poppyland Glen in summer and winter are works of art, more especially the latter scene, the surroundings, and the fur-trimmed white costumes of the members of the chorus and ballet, producing a most artistic and pleasing effect. Tiffin Hall and Manor is another very bright piece of work, the revels in celebration of "Old Squire Whiffen's Natal Day" prove

giving elegance with merriment. Mr. Dan Leno, as Sister Anne, and Mr. Emlyn, as the Palace major domo Mostapha, are mainly responsible. Both these drolls kept the audience pealing with laughter. Mr. Herbert Campbell, as Blue Beard, had fewer opportunities for display. A quaintly diverting figure was seen in the mobile Giant's Head, enacted with weird semblance, tenderness and refinement of Miss, one of the gayest points of the pro-

duction. The concluding scene, however, must be awarded premier honours, for the Grand Hall at Tiffin Manor is one blaze of colour. In the first place there is a "Review of all nations," and the receptions given to the various contingents are for the most part favourable, the representatives of the Colonies, as may be expected, receiving loud ovations. Then comes a panoramic view of England's first line of defence, the last and crowning part of the scene being the King and Queen in artistic robes seated on a dais, the whole making a most imposing and fitting conclusion.

Marion Terry are once again brought to bear in her sympathetic portrayal of Dearest, and Miss Eden, Miss Kate Phillips, and Mr. Hendrie, by their keen individualisation of secondary characters, complete an excellent cast.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.
"KATAWAMPUS."

Every child who knows Judge Parry's "Katawampus" must see the delightful adaptation which the author and Louis Calvert have made, and every child who does not must pay the theatre a visit for itself alone. True, we do not have Krab sitting on a wave as in the picture in the book, but then Judge Parry apologises to the young for that. He went to Brighton on a calm day, and could not engage even a ripple, he says, and further Mr. Courteau Pounds, who plays with so much grace and humour the character of the cage man who takes from children that awful ailment, the tantrums, and gives them new tempers, declined to sit on a wave in any event. It was not good for his voice, and who would do any thing, even for the sake of verisimilitude, to risk hurting so charming a singer.

Mr. Pounds makes a big success in

"Katawampus," and the song he sings when the four children have gone to sleep in their cages, after being gared all day by the animal and bird visitors, was so beautifully rendered at the first performance that he had to sing it all over again. This lullaby is one of the most charming things in the music written by Norman Hayes, who has also furnished a taking musical setting for the Parliament of Toys, when Olga is arranged for leaving her Dutch doll out in the rain all night with nothing on. The House scene is truly diverting. There are some unruly Irish members who, of course, interrupt continually, and there is a Welsh doll with a bloodthirsty desire to do away with all the little owners of toys. Here Mr. Pounds presides as Speaker, and the four children, Olga, Molly, Kate, and Tomakin appear before the representatives of the toy constituencies.

Surely never were children on the stage more clever and less precocious. They are so pleasingly natural, and we must mention them all by name. Miss May Cranfield who, as Olga, sings with an affected charm, Miss Lucie Woods and Miss Gladys Makeham, and Master Archie Watson, alertest and most intelligent of little fellows. Then the Dutch doll, showing her wooden body and her jointless legs, is impersonated with abundant cleverness by Miss Jessica Black, and brownies, wooden soldiers, chickens, ducks, etc., all do their work splendidly. We must not forget the pater and mater of Mr. Luigi Lablache and Miss Jessie Moore, nor the servant of Miss Minnie Griffin. As we have said, "Katawampus" is delightful; everyone must go to see it, the children especially.

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KENNINGTON.
"SWEET RED RIDING HOOD."

Although for the purposes of Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomime, the old familiar fairy story, is served up under the altered title of "Sweet Red Riding Hood," there is no alteration in the incidents so beloved of children as written by Mr. Walter Summers, and certainly no reason can be assigned from the point of view of the exponent of the rule, for Little Dolly Hayward is of very tender years. At the same time, she scores a remarkable success, and is closely followed by Little Maudie Franks, Baby Haudie, and Little Ruby Butt as Pollio Flinders, Margery Daw, and Johnny Horner respectively, although the other little scholars of a causious quartet of uncertain age—Rupert of Hentzau as played by Little Britton. No pains have been spared in making the production attractive and bright, and acceptable alike to young and old. The scenery is from first to last exceedingly tasteful, while Poppyland Glen in summer and winter are works of art, more especially the latter scene, the surroundings, and the fur-trimmed white costumes of the members of the chorus and ballet, producing a most artistic and pleasing effect. Tiffin Hall and Manor is another very bright piece of work, the revels in celebration of "Old Squire Whiffen's Natal Day" prove

the concluding scene, "Congratulations, Mr. Purcell."

SHAKESPEARE.

Without detracting in the slightest from the really excellent Dick Whittington for which Miss Jessie Loftus is responsible, in Mr. Hickory Wood's diverting pantomime at Chapman Junction, we are inclined to award the palm of praise and popularity to the cat of Mr. Fred Farron. Pantomime cats call up a long vista of clever impersonators; but we doubt whether, for faithfulness of feline delineation or for natural humour, as appertaining to the true friend of the industrious apprentice, one could suggest anything better than the cat of Fred Farron. To see the stretching of the animal as he awakes from his slumbers beside the mile-stone in Highgate Hill, or to listen to the sympathetic mewings of tabby when poor Dick is the despised lad from Alderman Fitzwarren's workshop, is to realise what a talented actor can do inside an imitation cat's skin. And then, to give the unrealities of pantomime Dick's companion, dances a hornpipe on board the Saucy Sarah, which would make many a sailor green with envy. In the title role, Miss Loftus scores a distinct triumph. Always alert and manly, always in her true place in the picture, sparing nothing of her strength to carry the Messrs. Bennett's sixth annual production to well-deserved success, she is a very true principal boy; while Miss Rose Dearing, as Alice, makes fitting companion to her ardent and courageous wooper. Ben Albert is decidedly funny as Jane Anne, the plain cook. His dissertation on the culinary art makes the ladies scream with laughter. In Romeo and Robini we have a captain and mate of a very amusing order, seeing that they are knockabouts of the first water. They are so clever that they can well afford to dispense with such a piece of vulgarity as the fisted feet, hughes of bunion and disengaging long of nail, which are worn by the mate of the Saucy Sarah. There is nothing funny in such an enormity. When everyone concerned sails away to Morocco, we have in the Empress's Palace (a beautiful scene) an actually dusky Princess in Miss Amy Height, whose singing of moon songs is, of course, the real thing. George Mudie, Bert Byrne, Miss Sybil Minette, and others also figure in the pantomime, which, with effective pictures, tuneful music, and plenty of fun, is carried through to a most successful issue.

CORONET.

"ALADDIN."

One has become accustomed to all the finish of detail and perfection of execution of West End theatre in the productions of Mr. E. G. Saunders, hence it is hardly necessary to state that in his fourth annual pantomime, "Aladdin, or the Naughty Young Scamp who Stole the Lamp," he furnishes a Christmas entertainment which is in all points admirable. As witnessed on Christmas Eve there may have been room for a wee bit more fooling, but anyone who knows anything about such things may be certain that the comic men, especially when among them is numbered Mr. James Blakeley and Mr. Johnnie Schopfield, will soon extract from their parts every ounce of fun and merriment. The first-named is possessed of a style of humour as new as it is welcome. He can sing a song with a variety of amusing expressions, which is irresistibly attractive. His Widow Twankey should speedily develop into a portrait most skilfully and enterprisingly drawn. Mr. Schopfield, who is the wicked Abanazar, has a fairy dance in feminine skirts which alone is worth seeing, while there is fun of a robust and distinctly clever kind in the songs of Griffin and Dubois, the Pequin policemen, Ping Pong and Hobby Bob. To come to the gentler side of the production, Miss Katie Cohen collaborated with him in a duchess which was less popular. Of course, there was a travesty of Sousa, Mr. Tom McNaughton taking the place of the celebrated conductor, and Miss Lloyd presiding at the big drum and cymbals in a rendering of the "El Capitan" march. Roars of laughter greeted this. Mr. Paget, for his first pantomime of the century, has carried a worthy successor to the previous trio, and judging by the applause at the close it is destined to be as big a triumph as either of them.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Such full details have been given of all that was promised by Mr. Gillman for the Christmas entertainment at the Palace, that it now only remains to say that in performance he has more than kept his word. Time was when the Christmas programme at Sydenham was never considered complete without its pantomime, and now, after an interval of five years, Sydenham returns once more to its old love, and we have in "Blue Beard" a production which should delight the children for many weeks to come. But they not only have a pantomime; they are fortunate in again securing the services of Miss Winifred Hare as principal boy. There is a naturalness about her acting in pantomime which, combined with unquestioned grace and a nice sense of the humours of the entertainment, renders her presence invaluable. Since last pantomime time she has been winning fresh laurels in musical comedy, and if she returns to her seasonal task with just a trace of hard work in her voice, there is as compensation a confidence and strength in her acting which carries her through the scenes in which Aladdin is naturally the central figure with abundant spirit and effect. We have always been such warm admirers of Miss Hare's singing that we will not hope take it amiss if we give word of warning as to the too constant use of the tremolo. A vocal grace should not become a mannerism. Mr. Fred Bowyer has written a book full of good things, his pantomime "libretti" are always of the highest class, and the piece is beautifully mounted. The dazzling splendour of the Jewels of the Cave, the gorgeous colour of the Cherry Orchard, and the brilliant spectacle of the grand hall of the Emperor's Palace are things to hold in one's recollections of pantomime.

LYRIC (HAMMERSMITH).

"DICK WHITTINGTON."

There are one or two subjects which prove irresistibly attractive to the pantomime producer, notably "Cinderella," because of the wonderful scenic possibilities; and "Dick Whittington," maybe, because the stage cat is an unalloyed source of amusement to the children. This year the theatres of the country are responsible for fourteen "Cinderellas" and eleven "Dick Whittingtons," and a prominent place among the latter must be reserved for the pantomime at Hammersmith. Not for the first time by a long way Messrs. Bryan, Daly, and John M. East are responsible for the production at the Lyric. They are men of experience in more than one line of dramatic work, and when the Christmas season comes round they are not found wanting. Their "Dick" is a Dick of fun and brightness, topical when local things come within their purview, and patriotic, too, when occasion demands, as witness the inspiring scene when the thrice Lord Mayor, as he is destined to become, represents the British flag in the King's Palace. The British Standard guardian of British liberties wherever the sun rises and sets, Dick, in the person of Mr. Harry Tate, in his conception of the magician, which he enlivens with a number of imitations of music-hall humourists, also by Messrs. Rich and Rich, two Chinese policemen, Ping Pong, of course, figures in this production, and a popular feature is the distribution of the now familiar white bunnies, by one of the characters, who hits them accurately in stilettos, p't, and gallery. The "service" leaves nothing to be desired, and the turns come in the shape of volleys, or should it not be "half-volleys,"—

we expect in the youth who can win

Sweet Alice (quite charmingly por-

trayed by Miss Sally Leno), and who

can live to be three times chief magi-

cate of the City of London. The

cock in this pantomime has long since

been raised to that eminence enjoyed

by the page in the other piece we have

mentioned, and as Eliza Jane Anne

Mr. Willie Scott makes a diverting

ruler of the kitchen, while Walter

King and Fred de Vere are excellent

as Idle Jack and the Alderman, who

is not only a City potentate, but the

lucky father of Dick's sweetheart.

The Lyric "panto" is, as usual,

charmingly mounted, the dresses are

delightful, and the scenes leave

nothing to be desired. What, for

instance, could be better than the

picture of Highgate Hill with its view

of Old London or the imposing picture

of the Sultan's Palace?

CROWN (PECKHAM).

"BABES IN THE WOOD."

To a house packed from roof to roof, Mr. Cecil Page produced his fourth annual pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," on Boxing afternoon. Mr. Page has secured a fine company to interpret this familiar fairy tale, including such well-known favourites as Miss Jessie Preston (Robin Hood

BUN LIFE OFFICE.

1810-1901. AMOUNTS, £5,000,000.

DRAMA AND MUSIC.

(Continued from page 6.)

SURREY.

"ALADDIN."

The old habitus of the home of drama down south, felt perhaps a little and when he looked at the programme and noticed the absence of the familiar name of the late Geo. Conquest, the cultivator and the link that connected the present generation with good old-fashioned pantomime. However, the pantomime of "A d-d-din," was produced by Mr. Victor Stevens, perhaps makes a ample compensation for the absence of old favourites. In the first place, Mr. Victor Stevens is an old favourite himself, and his Widow Twankey stands forth as a distinct creation in the more notable dramatic pictures of the gallery of Widow Twankey, past and present. The story strictly follows the now familiar lines. There is no very great attempt at novel gas or electrical effects that the late proprietor was wont to reveal, but the scenery is above the average that is generally associated with suburban houses, and the last scene, "The Golden Palace of the Sun,"

WIDOW TWANKEY.
(Mr. Victor Stevens.)

Clarence Corri is responsible for the music. Miss Lottie Stone has arranged the dances, which are exceptionally good, and the scenery has been painted by Mr. Julian Hicks. Miss Marie Dainton has been engaged for the title role, but unfortunately illness prevented her from appearing on Boxing Day. In her absence Miss Isabel Lowell proved a graceful and tuneful exponent of the hero, and she gained a great deal of applause for her successful rendering of the part. The company is in other directions very strong. M. Ugo Biondi is, for instance, a host in himself, and he has never worked harder or given a more clever performance than that to which he treats the patrons of the Camden Theatre. No praise could be too great for the perfect study of a cat which Mr. W. G. Hurst presents, and he has a great gift of humour. Miss Lily Elsie as Alice, Mr. Maitland Marler, "Food Spoiler to Alderman Fitzwarren," Mr. George Gray, and Messrs. Grall and Grey do much for the success of an entertainment which need not fear comparison with any in London.

ALAHMERA.

"SANTA CLAUS" BALLET.

Entirely seasonable and, of course, acceptable to the children who are certain to be taken to the matinées to see it, "Santa Claus," the new ballet at the Alhambra makes a safe bid for popularity. Invented by the resourceful Mr. C. Wilson, with music by the gifted Mr. Byng, scenery by Mr. Howden, and dances by Signor Coppoli, it presents us a picture prettily conceived and charmingly executed, of the god of Christmas gifts visiting two children in a country house, who, tired of waiting for his advent, have gone to sleep before the nursery fire. He not only fills their wide open stockings with all the good things which make up a youngster's thoughts at Yule Tide, but provides material for their sweetly pleasant dreams in a gathering of such favorites of the nursery as "Bo-Peep," "Jack and Jill," "Red Riding Hood," etc., who appear to music illustrative of their respective characters. Then comes a new and beautiful electrical effect, "Sunlight and Starlight," in which the corps de ballet are made to figure in a scheme of constantly changing colour, electric lamps under gauzy draperies playing an important part in a brilliant and charming novelty. With the new ballet, and "Gretchen Green," and "Soldiers of the King," not to mention the ordinary variety programme, the Alhambra is indeed well provided.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The date assigned for the production of the new musical play, "The Country Girl," at Daly's, is Jan. 18.

Useful information can be obtained from "The People's" Almanack for 1902 relative to music and the drama.

Mrs. Langtry re-opens the Imperial Theatre on Jan. 25 with the adaptation of "Mademoiselle Mimi."

Criterion players will be glad to hear that new additional exits from this underground theatre are made through property acquired in Jermyn-st., at the rear of the playhouse.

Sir Henry Irving has just completed his three weeks' engagement at Chicago, the most lucrative yet experienced by him at the Lake City, the receipts giving a total of £11,200.

The production of "Ulysses" at Her Majesty's, "Arizona" at the Adelphi, and "The Heel of Achilles" at the Globe will be early in February, but the exact dates are not yet fixed.

Both at the Tivoli and the Oxford

PRINCESS BADROULBADOUR.
(Miss Edith Ager.)

Mr. Rich put excellent spirit into their respective characters—the Grand Vizier, the Emperor, and Aladdin. A very charming princess is Princess Badroulbadour, as personified by Miss Edith Ager, whilst her low-born sweetheart, Aladdin, is invested with great spirit by Miss Alice Brooks.

There is an old axiom that the last word is the best. Mr. O. E. Lennon fully deserved this; he possesses a great fund of humour, and actually dared at times to be original. We shall see more of this assertive artist at some future time. The pantomime concluded with a rattling good knock-about harlequinade.

BRITANNIA.

"HANKY PANKY."

There is always one theatre where new ground is broken each year in the way of pantomime story, and considering the liberties which are annually taken with so many of our beloved nursery tales in the fashioning of the Christmas entertainment, it is rather refreshing to come across such a piece as is presented at the "Brit." "Hanky Panky; Or, the Golden Talisman," is the title chosen by the author, Mr. Charles Wilmott, who shows us how a famous magician, admirably impersonated by James Albert, tries to secure the magic prize, which has been purposely broken by the fairies, once half being in the possession of Princess Roselle (Miss Gipsy Woolf), and the other in that of Fairy Queen Sheba (Miss Kate Sharpen). The hunt for the elixir which brings perpetual happiness takes us to a village in Tapioka, on board H.M.S. Orpuk, to the Royal Palace, a race-course, the Valley of Jewels, and finally to Westminster Abbey, where Robin, the beloved of the Princess, who turns out to be the rightful occupant of the throne which had been usurped by "Tolloc the Tenth," is crowned with due pomp and circumstance. This fanciful story is set in happy and gorgeous surroundings, and the flying ballet, which gives occasion for some striking electrical effects is only equalled by the magnificent transformation.

The Coming of Spring," H. M. Edmunds and Dame Ping Pong, with Willie Albert as Tommy Ping Pong are mine of humour, while Fred Lawrence and A. G. Spry add to the fun of the entertainment. Gipsy Woolf is an attractive Princess, and Kitti Rayburn brings to the part of Robin all her skill and attractiveness. Many others might be mentioned who contribute to the success of the pantomime, but it must suffice to say that each is admirable in his or her way, and that "Hanky Panky" is another Britannia.

CAMDEN.

"DICK WHITTINGTON."

Mr. E. G. Saunders has added another to his list of triumphs by the production of "Dick Whittington," at this popular north-western playhouse. The story is good, the lyrics are good, the music is good, and the mounting of the piece is magnificent. Nothing more is necessary, or indeed possible, and the show, Camden Town is likely to attract large houses until the pantomime season is over.

On Boxing Day there was rather too much of a good thing. When midnight arrived the company had to sing "God Save the King" in the middle of the last scene but one in order to put a period to a too generous entertainment. To do credit to details, Mr. Fred Bowyer has written the "book," which contains many clever topical allusions, and Mr.

Clarence Corri is responsible for the music. Miss Lottie Stone has arranged the dances, which are exceptionally good, and the scenery has been painted by Mr. Julian Hicks. Miss Marie Dainton has been engaged for the title role, but unfortunately illness prevented her from appearing on Boxing Day. In her absence Miss Isabel Lowell proved a graceful and tuneful exponent of the hero, and she gained a great deal of applause for her successful rendering of the part. The company is in other directions very strong. M. Ugo Biondi is, for instance, a host in himself, and he has never worked harder or given a more clever performance than that to which he treats the patrons of the Camden Theatre. No praise could be too great for the perfect study of a cat which Mr. W. G. Hurst presents, and he has a great gift of humour. Miss Lily Elsie as Alice, Mr. Maitland Marler, "Food Spoiler to Alderman Fitzwarren," Mr. George Gray, and Messrs. Grall and Grey do much for the success of an entertainment which need not fear comparison with any in London.

THE TURF.

By LARRY LYNX.

"Larry Lynx" cannot correspond with his readers, nor can he upon any consideration undertake commissions.

[Notes on the week's racing with jottings and analysis of the racing in the different races for each day, in our Friday and Saturday editions. The whole is condensed into the briefest possible space in our Sunday issue, which only deals with Saturday's racing, and the racing of the early part of the ensuing week. The other editions should be ordered through a Newsagent, or at the Railway Bookstalls.]

This week it has been the "knifing and fork" stakes in which most of us have gone well—perhaps too strongly; we have had good big winners, and some not so good.

of plum puddings. There is something indescribably beautiful and home-like about Xmas day, otherwise the universal wish "A Happy Xmas" is a misnomer, as for dullness out of one's home—it beats the word Scottish. A week late to reiterate the iteration, "A Happy Xmas," I have to add, and nearly with all my readers—was the childlike postcard brigade—the happiest, and what to many is more—the luckiest of New Years. If I am at times command, and do not give you news, I'm a "trier," and what is good enough for me to suggest in my humble opinion—ah well, I have to say, "A Happy Xmas" is a misnomer.

It rarely great, the Boxing Day at Kempton is always looked forward to and enjoyed by a big crowd—especially outside. It was a grand, bright day in the open, too, and the "ecclesiastic" spectators gathered round the paddock, and the horses were in the paddock for the first time was properly backed up—Euston to cheat the Doctor, and work of the plum pudding effects. I tried biking it to Sunbury, and cutting it fine found the heavy going and headwind enough to make one miss the last race, but I had a good thing being plain sailing, and it worked out well, all for me. For I should have been bound to throw a little away on Brown Ewe, who I heard, nearly "came" it at the water. With Cherry Derry and other long ones successful, I fear most backers did little good, and the last race, I had a good chance of a "hooker" horse. The major's bid with the Ruby had remained away, for she was absolutely neglected in the market, Yalas not having to—on—not even Mrs. Yates' usual show—while Pinchbeck carried simply thousands. Fifteen had rather too far away, so that Pinchbeck (for whom Euston put in a trifling claim) had to come up, and he had an enormous start of knocking about, he was repeatedly nearly down rounding the first turn through striking into other heels. Going much the faster, even Fifteen's violent "arrow" just failed to get him home—an unlucky defeat. Mr. Jones took the winner to the Midlands. How she has improved since October, we have her, and the Ruby, who couldn't have run in this race. Another ill-fated verdict, which this time favoured a "hooker" horse, was the head by which Blueback, backed for a "parol," succumbed to Free Fight, who was at home in the mud, whilst Bob Gore's horse broke down, landing over the last fence, and was eight of the wins behind him for handicap riders as there is rarely more than one jumping race a day.

Although not troubled with American horses as far as the basis of our steppings, we have had a few, and the number of them has increased a few days ago that at any rate the war has yielded us some good in decreasing their number.

The new rule about penalties gained by the number of events was in line of being dependent upon their value, must work its effect upon the market, and the circumstances would now suggest for a £100 stake that will practically the same extra. In the past it was the scrapping of penalties that made competition for the short events.

Far from that, the Hounds, and the racing, has been quiet, although pike-fishers have been rewarded with good game fish. At the time of the race, the water was passed away, and in the absence of more heavy rain, which would upset the water, it should be in the pink of condition for some days. The Thames, the Lee, and other rivers have been fished, and good sport ought now to be had in most of them, the rough, club, pike, and perch.

The following are the latest reports from the various stations:—

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YESTERDAY

COMING OF AGE.

FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF
"THE PEOPLE."

Next year "The People" will attain its majority. It had its struggle for a place in the world of journalism; but it has never stood still, and it has never looked back. Every year of its existence has been marked with a steady progress in circulation and popularity. Nor have the proprietors accepted the favours of the public without trying to deserve them. They have done their best to take advantage of every opportunity to improve the paper; supplementing its original features with new ones; adding to its facilities for the collection of news; expanding and enlarging their mechanical appliances for its rapid production; abolishing the old system of type-setting for the linotype; adding to the motive power of steam the more alert agent of electricity; adopting from time to time, the newest presses, until 100 Victory machines, with a capacity of 200,000 copies per hour, printed, cut, folded and counted ready for packing are inadequate to the growing needs of a constantly increasing circulation in all parts of the world.

We have no desire to boast of the great prosperity of "The People," but rather to express our gratitude to the public, at home, and our readers in the camps and cities of the Empire beyond the seas, for their generous support, and to assure them of a never tiring effort to be worthy of the position in which they have placed us. On the eve of our twenty-first birthday we are resolved that on its coming of age "The People" shall be the largest, as it is, we believe, the best, Sunday paper extant. In the first week of the New Year it will, therefore, be increased to 140 columns, 20 pages, in which will be found such a complete budget of news as will not only make its Friday and Saturday issues increasingly attractive to the general reader, but the special Sunday edition a still more essential link between Saturday's and Monday's daily paper, recording all the important news of the world up to the hour of going to press early on Sunday morning.

In every department of the paper, editorial and otherwise, we have endeavoured to secure the ablest available assistance. In our Omnibus page every contributor is an expert in his own line. Our Answers to Correspondents is the work of specialists. In the world of sport our aim has always been to give the very latest news and the best information procurable in every class of play and recreation. Our news columns are kept up to date by the services of all the great telegraphic agencies supplemented by our own reporters and correspondents. We were the first to introduce the serial story as a feature of London weekly journalism. Beginning with Wilkie Collins we have had the first and exclusive publication of works by the foremost writers of England and France, including Zola, Ohnet, Rider Haggard, Mrs. Lynn Linton, Clarke Russell, Max O'Rell, Rudyard Kipling, Bret Harte, Guy Boothby, B. L. Farjeon, Grant Allen, Algernon Swinburne, Stanley Weyman, Conan Doyle, and Joseph Hatton, and we have made arrangements to maintain this notable distinction in our serial fiction.

As to the future of "The People" we do not regard any extension of its usefulness in the light of finality. Our policy is to move with the times. Several new features which we propose to introduce will, we hope, with the considerable enlargement of size, be an earnest of our desire to cater for our increasing circle of readers.

"JACK" HINTON.

Under the above heading we published in our issues of Sept. 22 and 29 last certain articles which were intended to give an account of the early life of a man who has made himself notorious in connection with train-wrecking in South Africa, and whose real name is we believe "Hindon."

By a most unfortunate error our correspondent confused the name of this man with that of Mr. Gilbert John Hinton, formerly of Madeira and Kimberley, who was generally known as "Jack" Hinton, and by reason of this error we were led into printing a likeness of Mr. Gilbert Hinton and of stating that the real name of the train-wrecker was Gilbert Hinton.

We desire in the most unqualified manner to withdraw every imputation against Mr. Gilbert John Hinton, and to state that all the allegations as to his early life which impute any improper conduct, so far as we know, are without any foundation. We take this opportunity of expressing our sympathy which he may have suffered by reason of the serious mistake which we have made.

We are the more pleased to do this as Mr. Hinton has shown us that at the time when the articles suggested that he was fighting against his country on the Boer side, and engaged in the abominable act of train-wrecking, Mr. Hinton was actually serving his King and country as a sergeant of the 2nd Scottish Horse, and that on resigning his rank within the last few weeks he received the very highest testimonials from his officers.

We may add that we have also agreed to pay Mr. Hinton a substantial sum as damages for any injury he may have suffered by reason of the aforesaid articles.

TALK OF THE PEOPLE.

THE WAR.

FUTILE ATTACK ON A BRITISH CONVOY.

BOERS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSS.

Cape Town, Dec. 28.—Reports have been received here of a combined attack by the Boer forces in Western Cape Colony on a convoy proceeding to Calvina. The attack, however, was a complete failure and the Boers are known to have lost five killed and over 20 wounded.—Reuter.

BOERS AGAIN AT FORT PROSPECT.

COMMANDO ATTACKED AND DISPERSED.

Durban, Dec. 28.—Since the defeat of Botha in his attack on Itala and the subsequent pursuit of the retreating Boers many of the latter who escaped have doubled back, and they have recently formed their laager closer to Fort Prospect in the evident belief that they were unnoticed, and would not be further disturbed. Dannhauser commanded the Boers who varied in number from time to time from 100 to 1,000. They apparently felt themselves quite safe, for they were ploughing and carrying on the ordinary farming operations in the district. Col. Chapman, the defender of Itala, heard of

THE COMMANDO'S PRESENCE, and developed plans for the capture of the laager, making his arrangements with a view to the co-operation of the Volunteer Composite column from Dundee and Capt. Large's detachment from Fort Prospect, a simultaneous attack being decided on. Chapman's force having with it a field gun and a Maxim. Owing to its supposed to a delay en route the volunteer column arrived too late to render useful service, but their absence did not affect the result. The other columns made the attack, the guns opening fire at daybreak. The Boers offered no serious resistance. They fled immediately

LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND, including five British prisoners, who were wounded at Itala, and who had been retained since. Several Boer families were also left behind, and all of them were sent down to Eshowe Camp. It is stated that if the volunteers had not been detained, and had not the retreat, Dannhauser's whole commando would have been captured. As it was a hot pursuit was immediately started. The latest news is to the effect that several Boers have been captured. The cattle and crops in the district have been removed, leaving the district bare.—Central News.

FIGHTING ON THE NATAL FRONTIER.

Durban, Dec. 27.—News has reached here of fighting on the 16th at Babango on the Natal-Transvaal frontier, when Col. Chapman dispersed a Boer force and captured a quantity of stock.—Reuter.

DELAGOA BAY RAILWAY.

Johannesburg, Dec. 28.—According to a report received here from Delagoa Bay by a local firm, the agreement between Great Britain and Portugal for the opening of the Delagoa line for the transit of civil merchandise established through traffic rates on the old classification, and provides that no exception shall be made either as regards individuals or nationality in the forwarding of goods.—Reuter.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Mr. Stephen Fiske, journalist, author, clubman, editor of "The Spirit of the Times" (New York), and racist of dramatic critics, has been saying some pleasant things about the editorship of "The People" in his popular sporting and theatrical weekly. From a note, too complimentary for entire quotation, we extract the following:—"The People has a circulation of nearly a million; issued six editions; has advertisements crowded out every week, and will add four more pages in the New Year to make room for them and for news. Besides the Cigarette Paper by Hutton and topical drawings by Harry Furniss, it has a serial novel, numerous special departments, and uses the telegraph liberally. An American edition would be profitable in this era of international reciprocity." We are glad to be able to inform our friend of "The Spirit" that our circulation in the United States is continually increasing.

COLLISION AT KING'S CROSS. PASSENGERS INJURED.

A collision took place yesterday afternoon on the G.N.R. at King's Cross. A train from Peterborough was standing at the platform, when the engine of a goods train came from the direction of Farringdon-st. and dashed into the rear of the passenger train, with the result that the front of the goods train was damaged, and two carriages of the Peterborough train were overturned. The latter was full of passengers, and many of those in the two overturned carriages were cut about the face and hands by broken glass. No one was seriously injured.

DYING MAN'S LOVE ROMANCE.

Paris, Dec. 28.—M. Bellerat, a gentleman of wealth, applied to the courts recently for an injunction to restrain his son from marrying, or to order the marriage to be postponed until trustees of his son's estate could be appointed. Petitioner declared his son to be suffering from an incurable disease, viz., tuberculosis, and urged that he should not be allowed to transmit it to another generation. Counsel for the son stated, when the case was argued to-day, that the young woman whom the son wished to marry, has been his devoted nurse for many years, and that before dying the son wished at least to be able to give her his name. The court decided to allow the marriage to take place.—Daijel.

ROYAL GIFTS TO THE POOR.

At a meeting yesterday of the Windsor Royal Clothing Club, a society founded and supported by Queen Victoria to encourage thrift among the poor of the royal borough. The Dean of Windsor, who presided, stated that the King had continued the bonus annually given by her late Majesty. This year 841 depositors paid in over £1,200, and with the royal addition, clothing over £1,300 worth had been purchased—more than £100 beyond the total sum deposited by members. It was also announced that the King intended to give New Year gifts of coal to all the poor of the parishes of Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer, who had attained the age of 60 on Jan. 1 last, and had been resident at least a year in the parishes. There will be no distribution of meat at Windsor Castle on New Year's Day.

SERIOUS POACHING AFFRAY.

Mr. Nod's Estate at Northam, near Hatfield, P.C. Carpenter and a game-keeper, named Wynne, have been slain by a party of poachers, who clubbed them with formidable missiles iron bars, and huge hedge stakes. Carpenter's face and body are covered with contusions, while a portion of his hand was bitten clean off. No arrests have been made.

An engine was derailed at Streatham Hill, yesterday, blocking both roads, and causing much delay to local traffic.

WIDE AWAKE.

THE WAR.

LATEST ELECTRIC FLASHES.

HOME.

Grave distress prevails in Berwick owing to the continued general absence of employment.

The funeral of Sir Noel Paton, the famous painter, took place yesterday in the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

At Sheffield, Alice Frere was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for neglecting her three children.

Mr. J. N. Carr, a member of the firm of Carr and Co., biscuit manufacturers, has died at Carlisle, aged 63.

Tugs were busily engaged at Dover bringing into the safety of Dover harbour small vessels which were at the mercy of the gale.

Elizabeth Broadbent, 51, was sent to goal for two months at Bristol for stealing a watch and chain from a man whom she accosted in the street.

At Leeds, Joseph Ambler, 58, butcher, was remanded on the charge of wounding Louisa Hetherington, with whom he lived, with a chopper.

The funeral of Mrs. Ann Cryer took place at Heywood Cemetery. Deceased, who was 82, was one of the oldest female inhabitants in the borough.

At Lancaster, Wm. Anthony Trythall, traveller for a firm of Coventry cycle manufacturers, was remanded charged with forgery at Morecambe.

An effort is to be made to obtain the release of Wm. Goacher, millwright, formerly of Spring-st, Bury, who is undergoing penal servitude for the murder of his wife.

Alfred Clark, a carman, has died in Colchester Hospital from injuries received by being thrown from his wagon, with which the horses had bolted down a steep hill.

At Bristol, Mary Morgan, 48, was sent to goal for two months for stealing her son-in-law's purse. Prosecutor, a stoker in the R.N., was home on Christmas furlough, and prisoner stole his purse and got drunk.

At Northwich, William and Henry Wyche, threshing machine men, and Anne Wyche, the latter's wife, were charged with terribly neglecting two children.—Annie and William six months each; Henry one month.

Two brothers named Alfred and Ernest Caulder, aged 11 and 8 years respectively, were drowned whilst sliding near Maidenhead. The younger boy lost his life in attempting to rescue the elder one.

FOKEIGN.

Japan has begun to erect wireless telegraph stations on the Korean coast.—Reuter.

Advice received at Washington from Paris indicate that the Panama Canal Co. is prepared to sell its entire property for 40,000,000 dollars.—Daijel.

A decree has just been issued ordering that the Russian language must be taught in all schools in Finland from the commencement of the New Year.—Daijel.

ALADDIN.

(Miss Georgie Martin.)

the shape of a crowd of juvenile workmen who sing for all their meals, and apparently enjoy a real good old dance to prosaic work. The most fascinating attraction of this product is the music of Mr. Carl Kiepert. The few bars, "Zing-a-zing, Boom Boom," that herald the appearance of the Emperor of the Celestial Empire, have a most quaint and unique effect. Miss Georgie Martin suggests a most engaging Aladdin, but it is only fair to say that Mr. Frank Parker takes first honours in this novel production; he has been the first man to make an arena really attractive, and in him we recognise a genius let alone master of stagecraft.

LATEST THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL GOSSIP.

We regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Edward Lloyd. No one who knew her but will deeply sympathise with Mr. Lloyd, our most popular tenor, and one of the kindest of men.

The last nights of "The Wilder-

ness" are announced, the final per-

formance taking place on Monday, Jan. 6. On Tuesday, Jan. 7, "The Importance of Being Earnest" will be revived.

At the Oxford, Tivoli, Canterbury, and Paragon, on New Year's Eve, Mr. George Adney Payne has engaged Miss Ethel Arden to recite, with special effects, Tennyson's poem, "Ring Out, Wild Bells."

"Santa Claus," at the Alhambra Theatre, introducing a most novel

electrical effect, having proved so suc-

cessful, the management have decided

to give two special matinées on Jan. 4 and 11.

Mr. Frank De Jong, lessee and

manager of the Princess's Theatre, London, and proprietor of leading S.

African theatres, was a passenger by the Briton, which arrived yesterday.

Mr. De Jong has other London ven-

tures in hand.

A drama by Mr. Fergus Hume

(whose latest novel, "Woman the Sphinx," recently appeared in "The People") and Mr. Henry Hamilton is in preparation for the Adelphi.

After nine weeks' illness in Edin-

burgh, Mrs. T. P. O'Connor was al-

lowed to leave for London yesterday.

Very beautiful are the new series of

tableaux vivants that have been pro-

duced at the Palace, Shaftesbury Avenue, by that tried and proved veter-

an of variety world, Mr. Chas.

Morton. Quite a new feature has been introduced in the mechanical lengthen-

ing and shortening of the large gold

frame, by which such opposite

variations in size and composition as "La Syphie" and "The Meeting of Dante and Beatrice" gain a great advantage.

SUICIDE AT DOVER.

So far, no success has attended the

efforts of the Dover police to establish

the identity of the foreign gentleman

who on Friday committed suicide at

the Royal Hotel, Dover, as previously

reported. The only clue besides the

young lady's photograph, which he

was evidently looking at as he shot

himself with a pistol. The circular

ticket issued from Paris indicates that

this mysterious foreigner must have

paid a flying visit to the metropolis

before committing the rash deed. The

inquest opens to-morrow, and mean-

time the Dover police are in com-

munication with the Paris Consta-

ble, to whom the photograph of the

lady has been forwarded. It is hoped

by this means to establish the iden-

tity of deceased, who had a quantity of

valuables in his possession.

Last night a Christmas entertain-

ment was given to the inmates of St.

James's and St. Anne's Workhouse,

London, by the 4th column.—Reuter.

ROYAL GIFTS TO THE POOR.

At a meeting yesterday of the Wind-

sor Royal Clothing Club, a society

founded and supported by Queen Vic-</p

THE WAR.

BLOCKHOUSE FIGHT.
BOERS RUSH A BRITISH CAMP.

FEARED HEAVY LOSS.
From Lord Kitchener to the War Office:

Johannesburg, Dec. 22.—Bundu reports on night of Dec. 24 Col. Farmer's camp on Tweefontein was successfully rushed by considerable force of Boers under De Wet.

I fear that casualties were heavy. Farmer's column consisted of 54th, 23rd, 36th, and 3rd Co.'s I.Y., one gun, 7th Battery R.F.A., and one pom-pom.

They were guarding head of blockhouse line from Harrismith to Bethlehem.

1st and 2nd Imperial Light Horse have gone in pursuit of Boers.

SEVERE ENGAGEMENT.
BRITISH FORCE SURPRISED.

A COSTLY MISTAKE.
From Lord Kitchener to the War Office:

Johannesburg, Dec. 21. (Received Dec. 23.)—On December 18, 19, and 20, sharp fighting took place Orange River Colony and Transvaal. On Dec. 18, Dartnell, with I.L.H., was attacked near Landberg, in Bethlehem district, by De Wet with about 800. Enemy charged within 150 yards. After several hours' fighting driven off with loss of about 20. We had one man killed, two officers and 10 men wounded. Dartnell has marched 120 miles in three and a half days without transport. Spens reports from Transvaal that 200 of the 14th Mounted Infantry, under Major Bridgford, after night march in direction of Beaufort, were searching farms, and owing to nature of work divided into parties, when they were attacked by 800 Boers and forty.

ARMED NATIVES.
under Brits. Boers charged with determination, overwhelming portion of Mounted Infantry before Spens could assist. Casualties severe, but details not to hand. Capt. Hindley, Manchester Regiment, and Lieut. Moller, Middlesex Regiment, were dangerously wounded. In the Orange River Colony, Damant and Rimington, after night march, reached Tafelkopp dawn Dec. 20; columns marching parallel three miles apart, suddenly Damant's advance guard was surprised by 600 Boers under M. Botha, who, notwithstanding gallant resistance, rushed koppa commanding main body and guns. Enemy only retained possession short time, Damant himself driving them off before Rimington could come up, but regret to say

CASUALTIES HEAVY.
namely, Col. Damant dangerously wounded, two officers and 20 men killed, three officers and 17 men wounded. Rimington pursued vigorously for some time, driving Boers across Wilge River, when they dispersed in all directions. Boers left dead on ground, and Rimington in pursuit caught five prisoners, one being Commandant Keyter. Afterwards a Boer who came under flag of truce to ask for leave to remove dead admitted to having already buried 27.

Dec. 22.—Am glad to say Damant reported progressing favourably, although his in four places. He has dictated further details regarding action Dec. 20; whilst galloping forward to intercept Boers crossing river at Magdeleines on Rietspruit, he noticed five lots of what he took to be Gen. E. O. Hamilton's Yeomanry; they were formed in squadrons, horses being held, and were firing volleys apparently at Boers. Damant himself doubted they were Hamilton's men. Rimington had

TEMPORARILY LOST TOUCH.
Presently supposed Yeomanry rode in column of troops, close past Capt. Scott's squadron Damant's Horse. Scott fired, dropping eight, remainder galloped at guns. Damant himself advanced with one troop to intercept Boers by gaining crest commanding kopje. Boers arrived first. Heavy fire. Troop took what cover available on spot immediately below Boers and fought till all were killed or wounded, except four men. Meanwhile Scott, realising position, collected men, charged and captured kopje. All officers and men on kopje behaving with

GREAT GALLANTRY.
Col. Mackenzie, acting under Gen. J. Hamilton's orders in Eastern Transvaal, wires from Bothwell:—Marched night, Dec. 19, Carolina to Lake Banagher, attacked Barond Smit's commando at dawn, killed six, 16 prisoners. Smit himself escaping. Col. Park reports from Nylatrom his column attacked in force night Dec. 19, at Elandspruit, by Muller and Trichardt, with pom-pom. Enemy driven off after hours' fighting, leaving eight killed, including Commandant Kriese, F. C. Mahon, and three wounded. Other wounded carried off by enemy in blankets. Our casualties: Seven men killed, six officers and 18 other ranks wounded. (Beaufort is in the Eastern Transvaal, and Nylatrom north of Pretoria.)

FURTHER PROGRESS.
BRITISH CAPTURES.

From Lord Kitchener to the War Office:

GALLANTRY OF OUR GUNNERS.
Pretoria, Dec. 23.—Since Dec. 16 column report 45 Boers killed, 25 wounded, 319 prisoners, and 35 surrendered; also 250 rifles, 11,229 rounds small-arm ammunition, 163 wagons, 1,200 horses, and 8,900 cattle captured. These include all separately reported.

Operations have been considerably impeded by heavy rains.

Gen. French reports Col. Mono and Scobell, operating north-eastern district, have reduced Fouché and Myburgh to about 200 mounted. Broken up in small parties there are some dismounted Boers in hiding in mountains.

Remains of commando which broke through blockhouse line under Krittinger, pursued by Bentinck and Dorgan, have taken refuge in Camdeboo Mountains; they number about 70, and are principally Cradock rebels, probably returning to return there.

In south-western country remains clear of enemy.

To the south of Orange River Colony Col. Rochfort's columns are gradually pushing north.

On reaching a ridge, Col. Damant observed a party of 70 men dressed in British uniform easily engaged driving

cattle in his direction. The strangers were at first taken to be a part of Rimington's column, which had gone out on the right flank. The mistake was soon discovered, however, and almost immediately another body of the enemy was located, further to the left of the British laager. Our guns were speedily unlimbered, and quickly came into action. We had only been able to fire two shots, when the Boers in charge of the cattle abandoned them, and galloped boldly forward towards the British position.

The enemy opened a galling fire on the gunners at a range of 200 yards, and simultaneously another party of 150 Boers, who had remained carefully concealed in ambush in the long grass at the foot of the ridge, enfiladed the position. A large number of the gallant defenders fell at the first few volleys, but the survivors fought tenaciously. The enemy were only able to rush and capture the position after all the men on the ridge had been either killed or wounded, except three.

They were guarding head of blockhouse line from Harrismith to Bethlehem.

1st and 2nd Imperial Light Horse have gone in pursuit of Boers.

SEALIAN COUNTRY.

Previous to this, however, some of the gunners and the escort had succeeded in getting away the limbers of the guns, notwithstanding the heavy fire. The only gunner who had escaped the bullets then effectively destroyed the breech blocks of the guns and rendered them utterly useless to the enemy. Out of a total force of 85 in action we had 75 killed and wounded, while of three officers and 42 men of the Yeomanry, one officer and 16 men were killed, and one officer and 16 men wounded.

BOERS LOSS HEAVY.

The Boers, who were under Commandants Weens, Ross, and M. Botha, the latter the son of the Commandant-General, also lost heavily. They had Commandant Vanderviere, and 30 men killed. Three of the Boer dead were buried by our men, and the remainder were carried away. Later in the day a Boer came in, under a flag of truce, and asked for an armistice in order to allow the enemy to attend to their wounded and bury their dead.

MORE BOER CRUELTY.

The survivors on our side state that the Boers behaved badly to our wounded on the ridge after the position had been rushed. Everyone who made a movement while lying on the ground was fired at. An officer of the Yeomanry asked permission from a Boer dressed in khaki to get water for our wounded. For reply the Boer discharged his Mauser point blank at the officer's head, but fortunately missed him. Several more of the enemy, of a similarly ruffianly type, robbed and stripped our wounded and dead, and were only restrained from perpetrating further outrages by their commanders, who used sjamboks freely.

THE ENEMY'S RETREAT.

Captain Scott had got together a small force, and came up to the assistance of Damant's men. Scott prepared to charge the position, when the enemy, mistaking his men for Rimington's column, hastily retreated. The fleeing Boers, however, fell right into the arms of Rimington's force, which was also coming up to Damant's support. Rimington opened fire, and the enemy lost a few killed, while five were captured. Rimington, with the remainder of Damant's force, chased the flying enemy across the Wilge River. —Central News.

A LAAGER SURPRISED.

MANY PRISONERS TAKEN.
Bloemfontein, Dec. 26.—Yesterday, Gen. Hamilton, in the south-west of Orange River Colony, surprised Pretoria's laager, killing one Boer and capturing 15 others. Thirty-nine riders were also taken. Col. du Moulin has captured in the south-west of the Colony Field-cornet Jacobus Dutoit and 23 men, with 50 rifles.—Reuter.

Pretoria, Dec. 26.—Col. Wilson, with Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, made a night raid on the 23rd along the Wilge River, to the north-east of Heilbron, and captured a few prisoners, and many rifles and saddles and a number of horses. Col. du Moulin, after a night march, recently surprised a party of Boers under Commandant Dutoit and Saul Sarenis, to the south-east of Jagersfontein. The two Boer leaders and 26 men were made prisoners. Dutoit is known to have shot lately some native boys. Du Moulin's prisoners are a mixed lot, and belong chiefly to the Ackerman, Joubert, Coetze, Heiders, and Krogh commandos. His captures include 88 rifles, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, and 100 horses.—Central News.

BOERS AND NATIVES.

RECHUANA TRIBE ATTACKED.
Johannesburg, Dec. 26.—A large commando of Boers lately attacked Linchwe's tribe, the Bakhallis, on the Pilanesberg, killing a number of cattle-herds, and taking away 60,000 head of cattle. Linchwe has appealed to the authorities to be allowed to defend his people and to recover his cattle.—Reuter.

ENEMY'S CONVOY CAPTURED.

Pretoria, Dec. 24.—Col. Mackenzie's column performed a very smart piece of work last Saturday in the Eastern Transvaal, surprising the Boers at Nylatrom, with pom-pom. The column covered 30 miles in five hours, and took a Boer convoy by surprise near Schapakrull. Seventeen prisoners and the whole convoy were captured, besides many mules and horses.—Central News.

FURTHER PROGRESS.

BRITISH CAPTURES.
From Lord Kitchener to the War Office:

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Operations have been considerably impeded by heavy rains.

Gen. French reports Col. Mono and Scobell, operating north-eastern district, have reduced Fouché and Myburgh to about 200 mounted.

Broken up in small parties there are some dismounted Boers in hiding in mountains.

On reaching the neighbourhood of Tafelkopp, Damant rushed a Boer kopje, killing one man and capturing Commandant Cyter. At day-break the transport wagons were laagered, and left behind in charge of a small escort, while Damant, with two guns of the 30th Battery, one pom-pom, and 95 men all told, pushed forward. The little force deviated on the left flank, where a number of Boers had been located.

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ON REACHING A RIDGE, COL. DAMANT OBSERVED A PARTY OF 70 MEN DRESSED IN BRITISH UNIFORM EASILY ENGAGED DRIVING

WISHING JOHN BULL A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Copyright: [Harry Furniss]

[Drawn Specially for "The People" by HARRY FURNISS.]

Thaba N'ch'a line, and are about to operate north of it.

The blockhouse line from Kroonstad is now close to Lindley. Some strong parties of enemy who were strengtheners of the work have been driven off by Gen. Elliot's column. The Frankfort line had reached Tafelkopp, which was occupied yesterday, and the line from Harrismith is being rapidly pushed on to Bethlehem.

Commandant Haasbroek was killed Dec. 16 in operation, near the Doornberg, under Col. Barker's direction. His brother, Field-cornet Haasbroek, was killed Dec. 19 by one of same columns, which also captured Field-cornet Froneman and seven others.

Lord Methuen, acting in conjunction with Col. Kekewich, near Wolmaranstad, captured 36 prisoners and much stock; both columns have now returned to Klerksdorp.

On Dec. 18, S. A. Constabulary, under Col. Steele, surprised laager at Klipkopp, to the west of Hamannskraal, and took 32 prisoners, including Field-cornet Schoenewald.

Col. Colebrander, in same district, has captured 62 prisoners, including Commandant Adrian Nigel. These are mostly Badenhorst's, Albert's, and Kemp's men.

In Eastern Transvaal, Col. Park and Upton have been again slightly engaged near Dullstroom. Gen. Bruce Hamilton is working to the south of Ermelo, and Gen. Plumer and Spens are co-operating to south.

EXECUTION OF A COMMANDANT.

Commandant Daniel Van Schalkwyk has been tried by court martial at Krugersdorp, and shot, for firing at a wounded trooper under his command. The following deaths are reported:

M. I. Rifles Brigade: Maj. T. E. Ramsey, 2nd West Yorkshires Regt.—Killed: 322 Pte. C. Mollett, head.

2nd Guards: Dangerously wounded, twice: 126 Pte. F. W. O'Brien, Dec. 12. Capt. F. W. O'Brien, dangerously wounded left thigh, near Cradock, Dec. 17. Imperial Light Horse: Surg. Capt. F. C. Fryer, high foot, 456 Pte. Percy Edwards, forearm, 458 Pte. Corp. R. Brough, right foot, 455 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 457 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 458 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 459 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 460 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 461 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 462 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 463 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 464 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 465 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 466 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 467 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 468 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 469 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 470 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 471 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 472 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 473 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 474 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 475 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 476 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 477 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 478 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 479 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 480 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 481 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 482 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 483 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 484 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 485 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 486 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 487 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 488 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 489 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 490 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 491 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 492 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 493 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 494 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 495 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 496 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 497 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 498 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 499 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 500 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 501 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 502 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 503 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 504 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 505 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 506 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 507 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 508 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 509 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 510 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 511 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 512 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 513 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 514 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 515 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 516 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 517 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 518 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 519 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 520 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 521 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 522 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 523 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 524 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 525 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 526 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 527 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 528 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 529 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 530 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 531 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 532 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 533 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 534 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 535 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 536 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 537 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 538 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 539 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 540 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 541 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 542 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 543 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 544 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 545 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 546 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 547 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 548 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 549 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 550 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 551 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 552 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 553 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 554 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 555 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 556 Pte. Corp. F. G. Marshall, left forearm, 557 Pte. Corp.

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

The death-rate for the 33 great towns of England and Wales increased last week from 15.5 to 19.3.

Portsmouth was lowest with 14.3, followed by Croydon with 13.1; while at the other extreme Gateshead was up to 22.2, and Oldham to the very high level of 32.6.

In London the increase was only slight, from 18.5 to 18.7, the 1,626 deaths from all causes being 136 less than the corrected average.

Small-pox was the cause of 24 deaths, while there were 65 fatal cases of measles, the highest number of any one week during the past 18 months.

A man is generally at his heaviest in his 40th year.

More people have died from colds than were ever killed in battle.

There is one titled person to every hundred commoners in Russia.

hints on etiquette will be found in "The People's Almanack for 1902,

particulars of which appear on page 6.

To be perfectly proportioned, a man should weigh 23lb. for every foot of his height.

Some insects, while in the larva state, never sleep, but eat all the time.

The largest cast bronze statue in the world is that of Peter the Great at St. Petersburg. It weighs 1,100 tons.

Only 331 of the 700,000 British subjects who died last year had any thing to leave by will.

There are 23,000 large houses in the Kingdom, and the furniture of these is valued at £2,000 for each house.

A shipyard at Ominato, Japan, still in operation, was established 1,200 years ago.

There are 130,000,000 people on the face of the globe who don't know what soap is.

The ordinary rate of the Thames current is 180 feet a minute; that of the Rhine, 54 feet.

It is the belief of some of the Chinese that the women who wear short hair will be transformed into men in the next world.

During the last 30 years of the 19th century India received and retained £50 millions sterling worth of gold and silver coin.

The world's ships carry 180 million tons of merchandise a year, and of this one quarter by weight is coal, and one tenth wheat.

Plimoll's mark showing the load-line on ships is a circular disc a foot in diameter, with a line 18in. long drawn through its centre.

The present Pole star is the one called Alpha, in the constellation Ursa Minor. It has been the world's Pole star for nearly 2,000 years.

The oak is the heaviest of British timbers. Next comes beech, then ash, apple, maple, cherry, walnut, and pear. Poplar is lightest of all.

A juvenile fancy dress party will be given by Mr. H. R. Johnson at Holborn Town Hall on Tuesday. This will be followed by a dance for adults.

A list of London theatres and music-halls, together with plays and a mass of useful information, will be found in "The People's Almanack for 1902, particulars of which appear on p. 8.

Plate-powder is usually made of rouge and prepared chalk. Plate-powder containing mercury puts a splendid polish on silver, but is very dangerous.

The lightship in Downs, off Deal, will be removed on Wednesday. The wreck of the liner Patria having been blown up, there is now no danger to deep draught ships.

While cleaning a window at Stockton a married woman named Mary Smith slipped and fell on the railings underneath. She was impaled on three of the prongs, and died from the terrible injuries she received.

At some hotels in Sweden a man and wife are charged as one and a half persons when they occupy the same room. A husband and wife may also travel as one and a half persons by rail.

In January, 1901, France recorded 567 accidents with horses, of which 53 were fatal. In the same period of time, railways killed eight persons only, bicycles six, while automobiles were responsible for two deaths only.

Colorado and Iowa have both restored the death penalty for murder.

There are now only four States of America in which the death penalty is not inflicted—Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, and Rhode Island.

The Marie Rickmers is the largest sailing ship built in a British port. Over four miles of steel wire are used in her rigging, and six miles of running cordage. The combined height of her masts is 260ft.

A collier named Thomas Vernon was found frozen to death at Andover by his brother-in-law. Deceased's home was situated in a lonely spot, and at one of the highest points in Staffordshire. Vernon's body was found within 200 yards of the house.

A Frenchman named Paul Goddard was charged at Bow-st., upon a provisional warrant, with forging and uttering, while in Paris, a bill of exchange for 20,000 francs. Prisoner was arrested in Southampton-row and remanded.

In connection with the petition for the release of the American, Miss Eastwick, who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment recently, it is understood that the Home Secretary has intimated that he can take no action.

Tasmania's climate is the most temperate and regular that can be found. The air is pure, clear, and full of the exquisite perfume of the abundant eucalyptus, whose exhalations, in addition to their agreeable quality, seem to exercise an antiseptic action upon every kind of dangerous germ.

The telegraphograph is an improvement upon the telephone, and is coming into use on the Continent. When a person speaks through a telephone fitted with the new attachment and the person with whom he desires to communicate is absent, the message is printed by a tape machine, and the other may read it on his return.

The Duke of Norfolk has appointed the Hon. Marmaduke Stoner, the little seven-year-old son of Lord Mowbray, to be his page at the Coronation. This is a peculiarly graceful compliment, for Lord Mowbray is claiming the Earldom of Norfolk from the Duke before the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords.

When an Arabian horse finds itself wounded and perceives that it will not be able to bear its rider much longer, it quickly retires from the conflict, carrying its master to a place of safety while it has still sufficient strength. But if the rider is wounded and falls to the ground, the faithful animal remains beside him, untroubled of danger, waiting until assistance is brought.

The scabbards worn by Russian officers are made of papier-mâché.

A bee will carry twice its weight in honey or wax.

Only 54 in every 100,000 deaths are really due to old age.

Local time, not Greenwich time, is the time for lighting up.

The human family is subject to 45 principal Governments.

In our workhouses there are about 40,000 ill and bedridden paupers.

Whitechapel holds London's record for population—223 to the acre.

The Albert Memorial, in Hyde Park, is 175ft. high, and cost £120,000.

The United Kingdom has 16 leading art societies, of which eight are Royal.

The largest wrought-iron pillar is at Delhi, in India. It is 60ft. high and weighs 17 tons.

A paper chimney, 50ft. high and fire-proof, is one of the curiosities of Bremen, Germany.

It is estimated that about £20,000 worth of German toys are annually sold in this country.

Four thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight of the population of Britain were born at sea.

The poor-rate was first established in the year 1573, under Queen Elizabeth.

Eleven sorts of spaniels are recognized as different breeds by the Kennel Club.

Rosewood is not the wood of any species of rose-tree, nor is it red.

The longest European mile is the Swedish, equaling 7.621 of our miles.

The night population of the City of London is falling off at the rate of about 700 a year.

In 1883 there were 3,830 engineers and stokers in the British Navy. There are now nearly 23,000.

The Royal Academy has 40 Academicians, five retired honorary Academicians, and 23 Associates.

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The amount of coal raised yearly in Britain does the work of 300,000,000 people, working continuously.

40 per cent. of all criminals sentenced in this country last year were imprisoned for seven days or less.

If an offender sentenced to be flogged is under 14, not more than 12 strokes may be inflicted.

487 omnibuses have been counted in an hour passing the junction between Oxford-st. and Tottenham Court-rd.

The largest enclosure for deer is the Royal Park at Copenhagen, 4,200 acres.

The ocean used to be considered about as deep at its deepest as the highest mountains are high. It has now been proved to be half as deep again—that is 44,236ft.

On River Terrace, at Greenwich Hospital, stands the only statue to a French officer near London. It is that of Lieut. Bellot, who lost his life in search for Franklin.

The population of the province of Quebec is growing at the rate of 8 per cent. in every 10 years; while that of Ontario is increasing only 2½ per cent. in the same time.

A ton of lead is fired for every man killed in battle. Statistics of European wars show that from 2,000 to 10,000 shots are fired for every person disabled.

The tail feathers of the feriwha, a rare member of the bird of paradise family, are the most expensive known, and the only tuft existing in England is valued at £10,000.

It is computed that as many as 1,500 Jews have fought on the British side during the Boer war, and there are on record 10 several instances of three Jewish brothers being on service with British regiments in South Africa.

The great bridge in course of construction across the Valley of Petrusa, in Luxembourg, when finished will surpass Cubain John bridge, now the longest single span of masonry in the world.

There are in the Bible 3,566,480 letters. Our national drink bill last year amounted to £160,391,718. This would allow us to place on each letter in the Bible 245 2s. 2d., and leave over £2,000 to spare.

It is the opinion of leading salesmen that London consumes no fewer than 15,000,000 fowls a year, which, if evenly divided among the population, would allow about three per head per annum.

In a village in the Cotswolds it is the custom to place a small mirror on the front door under the knocker, in which the visitor may examine his appearance before entering.

The Belgian Government have offered a premium of 50,000fr. (42,000) for a match paste free of yellow phosphorus and ignitable on any dry surface.

Here is a simple method of making 10ct. of coal go as far as 15ct.

The plan is to place a quantity of chalk in the grate; once heated this is practically inexhaustible from combustion, and gives out great heat.

So little confidence is there in Turkish post-office employees that, when some time ago opportunity was given to send packages and registered letters, only one of each was received at Stamboul in 10 days.

There are 793 distinct species of roses in existence. A horticultural exhibition with sample of every one of these queens of the floral domain in its midst of grandeur has not thus far entered the world.

Friar Bacon predicted in 1273 that fire would "shortly" become a general practice; and Bishop Wilkins, Cromwell's brother-in-law, said: "It will yet be as usual to hear a man call for his wings when he is going on a journey as it is now to hear him call for his boots."

The income of 100 principal trade unions in this country last year was £1,975,000, and their accumulated funds £3,767,000. During the last nine years these unions have spent over £9,000,000 on friendly benefits and about £2,750,000 on dispute pay.

The apricot orchards in Santa Clara County, in the vicinity of San José, are the largest in the world. Several orchards there are over 100 acres in extent, and many cover 50 and 70 acres.

The total acreage of apricot orchards in Santa Clara County is over 5,000 acres.

One of the most curious plants in the world is the toothbrush plant, a species of creeper which grows in Jamaica. By cutting a piece of the stem and fracturing the ends the natives make a toothbrush, and a dentifrice to use with it is prepared by pulverising the dead stems.

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The first tubular lifeboat was built at Weymouth in 1832.

Sprats are our cheapest fish, being worth only 5d. 2d. ed. a ton.

It is a remarkable fact that few savages have ever been known to swim.

The first fire-engine used in America was taken from England to New York in 1731.

About 450 tons of gold are yearly dug by man in various parts of the world.

Yorkshire ironstone is the richest in England. It averages in value 10s.

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**SATURDAY'S SPORTS
OF
THE PEOPLE.**

**FOOTBALL.
ASSOCIATION.**

LEAGUE MATCHES—FIRST DIVISION.

NEWCASTLE UNITED v. BURY.

A draw—1 each.

The Bury team, who have not been playing during the Christmas holidays, paid a visit to Newcastle on one of the home backs. Newcastle were to play to Dawson, and Graham and Cuthie, who displaced Piddis and Gurn, in the forward line. Fast play was the characteristic of the first half, despite the hard ground. Sagar got through for Bury, but the goal being an off-side one was not allowed. Throughout the course of the game Bury were more energetic than their opponents, though generally speaking, there was little to choose between the teams. At the interval neither side had scored. The second half opened brightly enough, Newcastle pressing vigorously and scoring through Roberts with three minutes of the resumption. The goal was well taken by Montague, letting the ball roll through his hands. Sagar equalised for Bury, and this being the extent of the scoring, the game was drawn at 1 goal each.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS v. STOKE.

Wolves, 4; Stoke, 1. The conditions under which this match was played at Molineux Gardens, Wolverhampton, were all against anything in the nature of scientific or even good football. Conditions upon frost and a heavy rainfall, rain the ground was in a very bad state, and that was to play a very big part in the game was soon made evident. Quite naturally the Wanderers had four distinct chances, but owing to the adverse conditions not one of them could be turned to account. About midway through Baddeley slipping, and the visitors did not long maintain their lead, as shortly afterwards equalised. After this Stoke tried to get ahead, but a splendid effort on the part of Lockett was brought to naught by Baddeley, who saved brilliantly. Nothing further being scored, the sides crossed over on level terms—1 goal each. After change of ends the Wanderers had nearly the play. From a pass by Haynes, who had been on the line, came a fine scrimmage in the Stoke goal, resulting in a third point being added. Encouraged by this large measure of success, Wolverhampton kept up a continuous pressure, and with a magnificent shot Beattie put on a fourth goal. Here the scoring ended, and the Wanderers were thus left with a decisive victory by 4 goals to 1.

LIVERPOOL v. BLACKBURN ROVERS.

Liverpool, 1; Rovers, 0. The visit of the Blackburn Rovers to the Anfield Road ground, Liverpool, proved a strong attraction. As was to be expected, the ground was in a very heavy condition. At the start the visitors had the better of their opponents' quarters, as the result of some excellent play on the part of the forwards. McIlwain scored as the end of the ten minutes. The Rovers then made some very determined attacks, but on each occasion they were driven back, the Liverpool defence being maintained at a high level of efficiency. In the half-time, the visitors had the fairer opportunity, but the most part was being carried on in mid-field. At the interval Liverpool led by 1 goal to 0. In the second half the game was splendidly contested, and both goal-keepers had some good work to do. Twice Liverpool got the ball into the net, but on each occasion an infringement of the rules had taken place. The visitors' desperate actions were made both sides to score, but they were futile, and the game thus ended in a draw for Liverpool by 1 goal to 0.

GRIMSBY v. SHEFFIELD UNITED.

United, 1; Grimsby, 0. At Blundell Park, Grimsby, Sheffield once again enjoyed the services of their goalkeeper, Fouke. Both defences were well tested during the first quarter of an hour. Though Grimsby had rather the better of the play, Sheffield were the first to score. Bennett got through three times, but on each occasion the visitors' attack was repelled. Grimsby then attacked strongly, and twice just failed to score, besides winning in several shots which went wide. Despite their efforts, they could not get past Fouke, and half-time was reached with the United still leading by 1 goal to 0. Grimsby were compelled to act on the defensive, and the visitors' attack was soon seen to be attacking again, three shots at goal going wide. Fouke kept cool admirably, saving three capital shots from Harper, Appleby, and Gardner in quick succession. Whitaker, too, did excellent work in the goal, and the visitors' attack through, but the goal was offside. The United pressed heavily towards the close, but the defence prevailed to the end, a keen game resulting in a win for Sheffield United by 1 goal to 0.

BOLTON WANDERERS v. SUNDERLAND.

A draw—no score. At Bolton, 1; Grimsby, 0. All chances of a clever and scientific game were destroyed by the deplorable condition of the ground. For some time neither side was seriously threatening, but at last the visitors had the better of the play, and to the first half, the visitors' attack was the best. The Bolton men did all the attacking. With their defence excellent, the forwards were able to deliver a number of combined movements on the Sunderland goal, but Doile defended his charge superbly, and for a long time could not be beaten. At last, however, Clark added a second point for the Villa, and then after some brilliant work by Baché, McLucas put on another with a pretty shot. Forest were unable to score, and thus Aston Villa won by 1 goal to 0.

ASTON VILLA v. NOTTS FOREST.

Villa, 3; Notts Forest, 0. Aston Villa, who have maintained their record, in recent matches, were visited by Notts Forest, who did not score. The Villa played several reserves. The first half was hotly contested, the Villa doing most of the attacking, though the visitors were dangerous on several occasions. Garryatt hit the crossbar with a header, and the Villa's second and Broughton shot five inches wide. Garryatt scored before the interval. Aston Villa crossing over with a lead of 1 goal to 0 after half-time had rather the better of matters, and in the end they won by 4 goals to 0.

THIRD LANARK v. DUNDEE. At Glasgow. A splendidly fought-out game was witnessed. Both sets of forwards played excellent football, but the defence prevailed, and the match ended in a pointless draw.

ST. MIRREN v. QUEEN'S PARK—AT PAISLEY. St. Mirren defeated Queen's Park by 4 goals to 0. In the first half, the visitors' attack was very good, and for a long time could not be beaten. At last, however, Clark added a second point for the Villa, and then after some brilliant work by Baché, McLucas put on another with a pretty shot. Forest were unable to score, and thus Aston Villa won by 1 goal to 0.

NOTTS COUNTY v. SMALL HEATH.

Notts County, 6; Small Heath, 1. At Nottingham, Notts played Boone in the top, and they, in a new forward, in Joyes, in the top, and half-backs, in some time had the best of the visitors. After a long time the visitors' attack was rather better of the two, and the end of half an hour McRoberts scored the first goal for the visitors. Ten minutes later Notts were awarded a penalty kick, and from this Morris equalised while before the interval Humphreys also scored. Notts changing ends with a lead of 2 goals to 1, in the second half, Notts set to work in capital style, and Lewis quickly added a third goal, while this success was immediately followed by Hampfrees putting on another point. At the end of 20 minutes, when Boone scored another goal for Notts, and again afterwards Small Heath lost Wigmore, who was injured. Notts continued to press, and Morris scored. Small Heath being scarcely beaten by 6 goals to 1.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v. DERBY.

A sharp frost during the night, followed by rain in the morning, left pools of water standing on the slippery surface of the ground at Osterley, where a match between these teams was to take place. The referee, Mr. Stretton, after consulting the ground, decided that it was unsafe to play upon, and consequently the game could not be brought off.

so hopeless was the prospect of any football that the gates were not opened.

MANCHESTER CITY v. EVERTON.

It was found necessary at the last moment to postpone this attractive fixture, which was to have been played at Manchester, the condition of the ground rendering football impracticable.

WEST HAM UNITED v. CLAPTON.

At Chipping Town. West Ham were well.

As for the game, West Ham won the toss, and Clapton started the game with only eight men. At first they were severely pressed, and West Ham appeared likely to score on one occasion, but after the visitors' play, the Clapton side was unable to full strength, and from this the finish they had as much of the play as their rivals. However, it was scored, Forbes then netting the ball from a corner kick. Clapton pressed till half-time, and led at the interval by 1 goal to 0. In the second half both sides strayed to a master, but the defence of both sides was good. Parsons and King being prominent for the visitors. Towards the close of the game, West Ham scored from a scrimmage, but immediately after Moul put on a second point for Clapton, and nothing further being scored, the amateurs were left with "the victory."

SECOND DIVISION.

BARNSLEY v. WOLVERHAMPTON ARSENAL. The match between these teams was played on a rain-sodden ground at Barnsley, accurate football being thus rendered extremely difficult.

Barnsley scored in the first 15 minutes. The point was obtained by George Bennett, and though the Arsenal tried hard to equalise, they were still a goal to the bad at half-time. The Arsenal, who, after a hot attack, increased their lead through Bennett. The Arsenal improved in their play towards the close, but they could not beat Seymour, and thus Barnsley won by 2 goals to 0.

BURSTON FORT v. STURMIN.

The ground was in a very bad condition, for both the visitors and the home backs, though the visitors had scored, had to leave the pitch.

At the interval neither side had scored. The second half opened brightly enough, Newcastle pressing vigorously and scoring through Roberts with three minutes of the resumption. The goal was well taken by Montague, letting the ball roll through his hands. Sagar equalised for Burston, and this being the extent of the scoring, the game was drawn at 1 goal each.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS v. STOKE.

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LIVERPOOL v. BLACKBURN ROVERS.

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